Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for May 28 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Reduced gate hours

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

The Harford (Route 22) and the Wise Road (Route 755) gates will close at 10 p.m., May 23. Both gates will reopen for normal traffic at 4 a.m., May 27.

The Maryland (Aberdeen Area) and Route 24 (Edgewood Area) gates will remain open.

KUSAHC closed tomorrow, May 23

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed May 23 for a training day. There will be no services, including pharmacy. Customers are asked to plan accordingly to pick up prescriptions prior to this date.

Commissary caselot sale

The caselot sale is scheduled for May 27 through 31.

For more information, call 410-278-3101. See article page 15.

RAB meeting May 29

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m. at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road.

The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Bush River Study Area.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are

invited.

For more information, call the Information Line, 410-272-8842 or 800-APG-9998.

RecruitMilitary Career Fair May 29

RecruitMilitary Career Fair event will take place 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 29 at M&T Bank Stadium in

Baltimore. More than 300 veterans are expected to attend this special event intended to help transitioning service members, veterans and military spouses find

Attendees will be able to interview with an all-star team of national, regional and local employers in the government and private

This event is produced in cooperation with President Bush's National Hire Veterans Committee (Hire See SHORTS, page 7

Issue Highlights

Page 2... APG hosts gang, drug awareness

training **Page 3...** Four retire in

April ceremony Page 5... APG Outdoor Journal: Another health

scare? Page 7... Community

Notes Page 8... FMWR

Page 11...Remembering the Holocaust

Page 12... KUSAHC Health Notes, Traffic Safety awareness

Page 15... Commissary, AAFES News

Page 16... Army News

Community covenant signed during the Military Appreciation Luncheon

YVONNE JOHNSON

Communities surrounding Aberdeen Proving Ground reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the installation, its Soldiers, civilians and Family members with a signing of the Army Community Covenant during the Military Appreciation Luncheon at APG's Top of the Bay May 15.

The annual salute to APG's military is hosted by the Harford County Chamber of Commerce and its Military Affairs Committee, led by William B. Seccurro, president and CEO.

"We are privileged to witness the signing of the Army Community Covenant," Seccurro said as he called the signers to the front of the room. Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, also the event's guest speaker, and Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, oversaw the signing.

Along with Robinson and Weissman, signers included Brig. Gen. James Adkins, Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs/Adjutant General; Turhan E. Robinson, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for Maryland; David Craig, Harford County executive; Aberdeen Mayor Michael Bennett; Bel Air Mayor Robert Preston; Dick Molinaro, chamber chairman of the board; Drew Nobles, APG retirement services officer; representatives of Maryland senators Benjamin Cardin, Wayne Gilchrest, and Dutch Ruppersberger and Havre de Grace Mayor Wayne Dougherty; and APG Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Spohn and his wife Staff Sgt. Wendy Spohn of the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band.

See MILITARY, page 16



Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG PHOTO LAB

Representing the Army Family, Staff Sgt. Wendy Spohn, Lukas Spohn and Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Spohn, U.S. Army Materiel Command Band and the APG 2008 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, sign the Army Community Covenant while Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, looks on.

Soldiers', Families' mental health Army's focus

JERRY HARBEN

U.S. Army Medical Command

The Army is joining in promoting mental health during May, which is celebrated as Mental Health Month under the sponsorship of Mental Health America, formerly known as the National Mental Health Association.

The theme for 2008 is "Get Connected," emphasizing the valuable support people gain by connections with Family, friends, community and mental health professionals.

"Years of research have shown that individuals who feel valued and cared

for are better equipped to deal with stress and adversity and even experience less severe illnesses than those with little social support," said David Shern, president and CEO of Mental

Health America. "The importance of Mental Health Month is to raise public awareness of mental health being a significant medical issue in this country," said Col. C. J. Diebold. "It should be used as a springboard to raise continuous awareness. Mental illness is a medical disease for which effective treatments are available."

Diebold is chief of psychiatry at Tri-

pler Army Medical Center in Hawaii, and has been designated as the Army Surgeon General's expert consultant for psychiatry.

Last year Army leaders took the unusual step of ordering a chain teaching program throughout the Army.

Some 900,000 Soldiers of all ranks were taught how to recognize and respond to symptoms of traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder. Of special importance was command emphasis to counter a perception that Soldiers who seek mental health services are weak or malingerers.

"We're all worried about it. We've

got to get rid of the stigma and that's what this education program is supposed to do," Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody said at a press conference announcing the chain teaching program.

All leaders have been encouraged to get out the message that getting help early is the best way to avoid long-term

"We can safely say mental health is an issue of great importance, and this is recognized at all levels of command in the Army," Diebold said. "It is an issue directly related to our operational tempo.

See HEALTH, page 11

ACS EFMP obtains more respite funds

RACHEL PONDER

The Department of the Army has approved additional respite care funds for Family members of active duty service members enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Eligibility for respite care will be based on the medical condition and specific guidelines established by DA.

A qualifying Family is eligible to receive a maximum of 40 hours of respite care monthly for each certified EFM.

According to February 2008's Army Respite Newsletter, "Respite literally means a period of rest or relief. Respite care gives a caregiver temporary relief from responsibilities of caring for individuals with chronic physical or mental dis-

an exceptional Family member say that respite is crucial to their ability to provide nurturing and stable homes whether the Soldier is home or deployed."

The Army's respite program enhances the military member's ability to be mission ready for the Army and for his or her Family as well.

"I encourage all those that need respite care to apply," said Diana Hayes, Army Community Service EFMP manager. "I want to make sure that these funds are being used by those who need it."

Hayes added that Families who request respite services will be given an appointment with her to fill out an application. Respite providers will also need to fill out an application

abilities. Army Families with and go through training provided by ACS. Respite payment is sent directly to the provider via direct deposit or check.

"The Families choose the person they want to give care for their exceptional Family member," Hayes said. "It could be a friend or trusted Family member.

"Family members of EFM can use respite care hours however they see fit," Hayes said. "They can use it daily to run errands or just spend some quiet time relaxing."

Respite applications can be picked up and returned to ACS building 2754 Rodman Road, room 211.

For more information, call Hayes, 410-218-2754 or e-mail dianahayes@apg. army.mil.



Rendering by OPUS EAST, L.L.C.

Government contractor, CACI, recently signed a seven-year lease for the 60,000 square-foot research and development facility depicted in this rendering by OPUS East, L.L.C. Now under construction at Aberdeen Proving Ground, the building is expected to be completed in October 2008.

CACI signs first lease for APG G.A.T.E. facility

Opus East, L.L.C. has announced that CACI signed the first lease for the Government and Technology Enterprise, or G.A.T.E., at Aberdeen Proving Ground May 14.

The G.A.T.E. is being developed by Opus East in conjunction with the U.S. Army and APG as part of the Army's Enhanced Use Lease program. Under the terms of the EUL, Opus will lease each land bay for 50 years, allowing the Army to develop under-utilized property and redirect the proceeds back into the maintenance and improvement of APG facilities.

CACI, a leading professional services and information technology solutions provider to the federal government, has signed a seven-year lease for the first building being developed at the G.A.T.E.

The single-story, 60,000-square-foot research and development facility is expected to be complete and ready for occupancy in October

"We are very pleased the G.A.T.E. is moving for-See CACI, page 12



More major traffic changes coming

Due to the ongoing base realignment and closure construction, there will be significant changes to the traffic on Maryland Boulevard in the coming months.

On or about May 23, the speed limit on Maryland Boulevard will be reduced to 35 miles per hour. New speed limit signs will be posted.

On or about May 27, the left or center lanes in both the inbound and outbound directions will be closed. All traffic will be required to use the respective right hand lanes. This closure will allow the construction of lane crossovers for future traffic.

On or about June 9, the two outbound lanes will be closed and the inbound lanes will be converted to two way traffic. Outbound traffic will be detoured to the inbound side just past the Bush River/Deer Creek Loop light and detoured back into the outbound lane just prior to the serpentine at the gate. This closure is being done to allow the relocation of a major gas line. Once the gas line relocation is completed, the inbound lanes will be closed and the two way traffic will be relocated to the outbound lanes where it will remain until the gate construction is completed. There will be additional announcements before these changes occur.

Appropriate signage will be used for each of these changes, but most of the safety of these changes will depend upon the vigilance and caution of the individual driver.

Drivers should be very aware of daily conditions and use good judgment with respect to speed and right of way.

For more information, call Jerry Norris, DIO, 410-306-1159.

Watch card

Awareness is key! Everyone is a sensor. Report any suspicious activity immediately to the APG Police:

Aberdeen Area, 410-306-2222, 4-2222 Edgewood Area, 410-436-2222, 5-2222

Off post in Maryland, 1-800-492-TIPS (8477) or call 911. Your call may save lives.

Note - Do not carry this card when traveling outside of the United States.

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**

Police officers from 30 law enforcement agencies across Maryland converged on the Aberdeen Proving Ground Post Theater April 8 and 9 for "Gang and Drug Update: 2008," presented by The Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute and hosted by the Aberdeen Proving Ground Police Department. Representatives from Maryland state government, the federal government, municipalities, sheriffs' offices, county police and several colleges were in attendance for this training.

Mike Farlow, APG crime prevention/community police officer who helped organize the event, said that there is no current gang activity specifically on APG.

"The purpose of the training for APG police officers is to try to prevent gangs from coming into our community," he said. "It will also provide attendees with the most up-to-date gang and drug trend information so that they can better serve the community."

Robert Krauer, director of Law Enforcement and Security for APG, remarked that he felt that the training is necessary to provide officers from across the state with current information.

"The current proliferation of gang related activities throughout our communities has made it absolutely imperative that all law enforcement agencies are aware of the current gang culture," Krauer said. "Only by having current and up-to-date training concerning gang recognition, to include their history, organization and leadership, can we combat this scourge within our schools, neighborhoods and communities."

Patricia Sill, administrator of the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute of the Police and Correctional Training Commissions, Krauer, and Sheriff Jesse Bane from Harford County's Sheriff's Office were introduced during the opening remarks.

"I appreciate Robert Krauer and his support of crime prevention," Bane said. "Gangs and drugs are a plague that is affecting all of us. The fact that all of you are in this room says that we want to do something about it."

Bane said that the first step to attacking the problem is to admit that there is a problem, and to constantly think of new ways to combat it.

He added that gangs and drug dealers are always changing their tactics to prevent themselves from being caught.

Bane remarked that attendees should share their ideas about how to handle the gang problem.



http://www.knowgangs.com/photo/showphoto.php?photo=1460

"I am very proud of how this jurisdiction has handled gang activity," he said. "Gang activity hasn't hit the suburban or the rural jurisdictions as hard as the cities, but it is coming.'

Trooper First Class Greg Kies from the Maryland State Police gave an overview on the structure of street gangs. Kies said that the Maryland State Police defines a gang as a group of two or more individuals with a common name, symbol, manner of dress or commonality who as a group of individuals engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal activity.

"Apathetic attitudes will kill people. We need to speak up about the gang problem," Kies said. "We need to drop our egos and get real about this problem. We need to get the community involved in detecting gang activity. The community needs to know about this problem so that they can vote for judges who will be tough on crime and gangs. We need to start encouraging people to talk about it."

Kies said that it is important to pay close attention to children and teens as they are the most easily influenced and the most targeted to join gangs.

"If you don't think your kids have been influenced, think again," he said.

Kies added that there are some misconceptions about gangs due to the media portrayal of gangs, lack of training, perceived political ramifications and fear of lawsuits.

Kies gave the audience an overview of how the media portrays gang life as glamorous through music, video games, magazines, movies and television. He recommended that parents talk to their children and teens about the reality of

gang life. Kies added that social networking sites like www. myspace.com, www.facebook. com and others have been used as gang recruiting tools.

Kies remarked that many teens join gangs because they do not have a stable Family life, and the gang gives them a false sense of security. Belonging to a group, receiving protection, earning money, becoming more popular and relieving boredom are some other reasons that teens see gang life as attractive.

Kies added that more girls are joining gangs and participating in violent behavior so they shouldn't be ignored when examining gang behavior.

Kies also presented information on motorcycle gangs. He said that there are many motorcycle riding clubs that are harmless, but motorcycle gangs are a serious threat.

"The motorcycle gangs call themselves one-percent clubs, which was used in a famous statement attributed to the American Motorcyclist Association describing certain troublemakers as only one percent of motorcyclists," Kies said.

The National Alliance of Gang Investigators Alliance states: "Motorcycle gangs have evolved into crime units that are sufficiently well-oiled and wellorganized to rival the Mafia."

Keis remarked that most motorcycle gangs are well-



organized. They have written constitutions, bylaws and a hierarchical leadership structure. Enforced gang member conactivity. tact is achieved by mandated attendance at club-sanctioned

ranging from fines to death. Kies added that motorcycle gangs, like traditional gangs, are dangerous but appear glamorous in the media.

functions or runs. If members

break rules or bylaws, their mis-

deeds are punished with penalties

Members identify themselves with tattoos, clothing and colors. Some gangs are so concerned with their image that they have copyrighted and trademarked their logos and gang names.

To learn more about motorcycle gangs, visit NAGIA's Web site www.nagia.org.

Detective Scott Yousa from the Harford County Sheriff's Office gave an update of local gang activity. Yousa stated that Harford County uses GangNet, which is a browser-based investigative and statistical resource, for recording and tracking gang members and their activities.

Yousa said that they use Maryland's definition of gangs and use a 12-point system that uses indicators like tattoos and clothing when identifying gang

Yousa said that there are approximately 140 gang members living in Harford County. Yousa remarked that Harford County's close proximity to major cities like Baltimore has made it susceptible to gangs.

The first gang identified in Harford County was the Bloods in 2001.

Major gang issues surfaced after the shooting of cab driver Derald Guess in 2004, who was believed to have been killed for gang initiation.

"We went to having a gang presence to a gang problem," Yousa said. "We have been pro-active in dealing with the gangs and have been staying on top of the situation. As long as we have socio-economic problems like drugs and racism, we will have gangs."

In addition to educating the police officers about gangs, Bruce Lohr and Ann Thacker from the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute talked to attendees about the

importance of having a close relationship with the community to prevent crime.

Thacker recommended that police officers get involved in Drug Abuse Resistance Education, a program that educates children about resisting drugs, gangs and peer pressure.

She remarked that police officers can learn a lot from talking with the community and that police officers need to take time to talk to children, because all children want to be respected and feel like their opinions are valued. One way to get children to stay away from drugs and gangs is to get them involved in positive activities, Thacker said.

Police officers that attended the event remarked that the training was very helpful.

"These are things that everyone needs to address. Police officers need to find out what is going on and pool the information together," said Ron Dodd, a security specialist at Kennedy Krieger. "I think we also need to educate the community, go to schools and be honest and truthful about what is going on around us."

"I think this was awesome training," said Stephanie Wall who works for Howard County's Police Department, Southern District. "I think more officers need to be empathetic and get in touch with the underlying issues to understand why people turn to drugs and gangs. Police officers need to take time to talk with people in the community, and get involved in programs like D.A.R.E. When police are involved in community problems, the results are phenomenal."

To learn more about gang activity visit: www. knowgangs.com, www.gangsorus.com, www.nagia.org and www.gangresearch.net.

Recognizing and preventing gangs

Taken from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Police and Correctional Training Commissions

- Gangs are not just a "big city"
- Gangs cross all ethnic, racial, economic and geographical boundaries
- Gangs bring fear and violence to neighborhoods
- New members are often "jumped in" (beaten) to join the gang
- New members often have to commit violent crimes to join the gang
- Gangs recruit in places where youths congregate-malls, neighborhood hangouts and schools.

Red flags-early warning signs of gang involvement

- A change of dress style New or unusual nicknames
- Tattoos
- Large amounts of cash

- New friends Withdrawal from Family
- Problems in school • Graffiti on notebooks
- Violent behavior
- Drug use
- Display/wear gang colors

Crime prevention tips from the National Crime Pre Council

Make sure your child doesn't need a

• Show your child love with lots of hugs and reassurances. - Talk with and listen to your child.

• Supervise your children's activities. Help them get involved in athletics or other activities that interest them.

- Know about your child's friends and their friend's Families.
- Put a high value on education and help your child do his or her best in school. Do everything possible to pre-

vent dropping out. What communities can do to keep

gangs out • Develop positive alternative activities for after school, the weekend, and during

the summer when children and teens can learn, expand their world and have fun. • Encourage parents to talk to one

another through school forums, social events, networks, parenting classes and support groups. • Cooperate with police and other

agencies. Report suspicious activity, set up a Neighborhood Watch or citizen patrol, volunteer to clean up graffiti.

• Get organized and show gangs that your neighborhood has zero tolerance for their activities. Your community has many resources that can work together against gangs including law enforcement, civic groups, religious congregations, schools, youth agencies, Boys & Girls Clubs YWCA, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, drug treatment services and community centers.

auestions R provides answers to only time each year that Soldiers are asked to help their organi-

Every year the Army conducts its annual Army Emergency relief Campaign. To help those not familiar with how the program works, here are some common questions and answers.

Question: Why does the Army have an Annual **AER Campaign?**

Answer: The Army and AER conduct an Annual Campaign for several reasons:

- To continually increase the awareness of all Soldiers, active and retired, and their Families-including spouses and orphans of deceased Army members-about AER's programs, benefits, and how to obtain assistance when needed.
- To inform Soldiers how their fund operates and their contributions result in Soldiers helping other Soldiers.
- To provide an opportunity for all Soldiers to "Help the Army Take Care of its Own" by contributing to AER.

Question: Isn't AER part of the Annual Combined Federal Campaign?

Answer: AER is not a part of the CFC Campaign. Because AER is the Army's own organization and the important role AER has in supporting Soldiers and their Families, the Army conducts a separate AER campaign. AER Annual Fund Campaign is the zation and their fellow Soldiers.

Question: Does AER only solicit Soldiers during its annual campaign?

Answer: AER solicits donations only from Soldiers, active and retired because those are the beneficiaries of AER assistance. AER does however gratefully accept unsolicited donations from the general public and from those who find AER is an acceptable way to support Soldiers and their Families.

Question: Why should I contribute to AER?

Answer: Your contributions remain important to allow AER to fulfill its mission of helping Soldiers in time of distress and misfortune. Contributions help assure continued availability of AER funds to meet the increasing assistance needs for Soldiers. And through your contribution you are helping carry on the tradition of Soldiers helping Soldiers in time of need.

Question: How can one contribute to the AER Campaign?

Answer: Contributions may be by allotment, cash, or check. Soldiers who choose to contribute by allotment can spread their donation out over time, up to 12 months.

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMNE-APG-PA, Building 2201, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from

Editorial content is prepared, edited and approved by the APG Public Affairs Office. The APG News is printed by Homestead Publishing Company, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with APG. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Homestead Publishing Company of the products or services advertised.

For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 2201, IMNE-APG-PA, APG, MD

Question: How is AER funded to sustain its pro-

Answer: AER funding comes from several sources:

• AER is primarily funded by fellow Soldiers through repayment of outstanding AER loans and their Annual Campaign contributions.

• On behalf of Soldiers, AER receives unsolicited contributions from members of the general public as a way of honoring the service of Soldiers by helping Soldiers and their Families in need.

• Investment income from AER funds no currently issued for

Question: How much of every dollar spent by AER is actually assistance provided to Soldiers? Answer: 87 cents of every dollar spent by AER is spent on assis-

tance programs, 11 cents goes to payroll and other administrative costs and the remaining 2 percent goes to cover fund raising expenses.

Question: How successful is the annual campaign? Answer: Last years Annual Campaign raised \$10.9 million (\$6.4 million in allotment pledges and \$4.5 million in cash dona-

tions) contributed by Soldiers—active and retired.

For information on donating to AER, contact a unit representative or the AER Campaign Coordinator, Maj. Mathieu Petraitis, 410-278-3000.

21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-278-2570; or send e-mail to editor-apg@ conus.army.mil.

Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

ADC C	MIC FIRRI
APG Commander	Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr.
APG Garrison Commander	Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman
Public Affairs Officer	George P. Mercer
Editor	
Editorial Assistant	
Contract Photojournalists	
Graphic Designer/Web Designer .	
Web site	

Four retire during April ceremony

YVONNE JOHNSON APG News

In the company of Family, co-workers and friends, one Soldier and three civilians made an official start to their lives outside of government service during the monthly retirement ceremony at Top of the Bay April 30.

Col. Raymond T. Van Pelt, deputy commander, 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives), hosted the ceremony and presented awards assisted by 20th Support Command Operations Sgt. Maj. Ricardo Soto-Acevedo.

The retirees included Sgt. 1st Class Michael W. Perez, U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School; Joseph A. Ricci, U.S. Army Environmental Command; Carolyn J. Johnson, Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security; and Alvin L. Jones, U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center.

Van Pelt said that during a visit the day before by Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Peterson, deputy commander and chief of staff, U.S. Army Forces Command, the general stated that work being done today will effect the next generation of Americans for the next 50 years.

He said that he was reminded of those words when he looked at the retirees.

"You're all about supporting something larger than yourselves," he told the retirees. "It's more than making money; it's about supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States. You've done that as a Soldier and you've done that as civilians."

Van Pelt thanked them for their service on behalf of Brig. Gen. Turner, commander, U.S. Army Developmental Test Command.

We are in your debt," he said. "We thank you for your service, dedication and love of country, and we wish you the very best in retirement."

Sgt. 1st Class Michael W. Perez

Perez was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement signed by Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. and the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation signed by President Bush. His wife Carrie received the DA Certificate of Appreciation.

Perez thanked God "for allowing this to be possible," and his wife, "for putting up with me for all these years."

"I'll miss it," he said, adding that he squeezed into his Class A's for the last time.

"The Army has truly been good to me and my family," he said. "I'd do it all over again if I had to."

Perez and his wife Carrie have three children and one grandchild.

A native of Portland, Ore., Perez enlisted in the Army in 1986. Throughout his 22-year career he served four overseas tours - three in Korea and one in Kuwait. His stateside tours included Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Lewis, Wash.; and Fort Riley, Kan., serving as squad leader, platoon sergeant, Equal Opportunity representative, S-3 Operations noncommissioned officer, battalion S-2 NCO and battalion retention NCO.

Perez said he is most proud of mentoring subordinates to become great leaders.

He ends his career as an instructor/writer with the 16th Ordnance Battalion, OMMS.

His awards include the Meritorious Service, Army Commendation and Army Achievement medals as well as the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Joseph A. Ricci

Ricci was awarded the DA Certificates of retirement and appreciation signed by Col. Michael O'Keefe, commander, USAEC. His wife Priscilla received the DA Certificate of Appreciation signed by APG Garrison commander, Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman.

Ricci said that it was hard to imagine that 33 years had passed.

"I'm proud to have served



Photo by SCOTT NIETO, APG PHOTO LAB Retirees and their spouses listen to comments during the April 30 retirement ceremony at Top of the Bay. From left, Sgt. 1st Class Michael W. Perez, U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, and his wife Carrie; Joseph A. Ricci, U.S. Army Environmental Command, and his wife, Priscilla; Carolyn J. Johnson, Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security; and Alvin L. Jones, U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, and his wife, Sherlie.

the Army Environmental Command and the nation," he said. "I cherish every day that I served. Thank you all for being here and

sharing in this special time." Ricci is the brother-in-law of Tim McNamara, deputy to the APG Garrison commander.

He is currently employed with the Susquehanna Workforce Network. He and his wife Priscilla have two children.

Ricci was born in Providence, R.I. He graduated from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., with a degree in chemical engineering in 1975 and began his federal career with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Rhode Island. After serving as an intern at the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant in Washington, D.C., he entered the Army's Safety Intern program at Red River Army Depot in Texas and then accepted a position as a chemical engineer in the Edgewood Area in 1976. He has since served as Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization and Installation Restoration. He remained with the organization through its designations as the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency, the U.S. Army Environmental Center and then the

Ricci retired March 12, with 33 years of service.

His latest award was a silver from the Baltimore Federal Executive Board for Community Service in 2000.

Carolyn J. Johnson

Johnson said that when she began her career at age 21 she never imagined "ending up at this level."

She thanked God, her parents and her children and sent special thanks for support from her church family at the Abundant Life Worship Center in Elkton.

"I had a great, busy life," Johnson said, adding that she doubts she'll stay retired.

"I'm sure I'll find something else to do," she said.

When she was 2 years-old, Johnson's parents moved to Havre de Grace from New York City. She graduated from high school in North Carolina in 1966, and then later furthered her career at Harford Community College and at the California Health College.

Her federal career began in 1966 as a certified nursing assistant at the Perry Point Veterans Administration. Eventually, she served as a medical nursing assistant at the former Kirk Army Hospital for six years. After a move to Florida, then a return to the Aberdeen area, she worked as a respiratory therapist at Perry Point, where she worked for 18 years, retiring in 1996.

Johnson began work with the APG Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security in 2002 after working for the Havre de Grace Police Department for seven years. During her career she received numerous letters of appreciation and commendation and performance awards.

She has five children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Her plans include becoming more active in church activities. She retired April 30 with nearly 30 years of federal service.

Alvin L. Jones

Jones was awarded the DA certificates of retirement and appreciation signed by Col. John P. Rooney, commander, U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center and his wife Sherlie received the APG Certificate of Appreci-

ation signed by Weissman. "I started as a military brat and I've been here ever since," Jones said.

He said he was looking forward to having the time to do whatever he wants.

"I never had the time to see what being a civilian is really all about so now I have a chance to do what I want to do," he said.

Jones was born and raised in Hattiesburg, Miss., where he graduated high school in 1970. He began his career in 1973 when he joined the Army, serving for three years as a recovery specialist.

His civilian career began in 1980 with APG's Materiel Test Directorate as a government test driver. In 1992, he became a test driver leader for the U.S. Army Combat Systems Test Activity and in 2000 he became a test area manager.

Jones ends his career in the Automotive Operations Division, Automotive Directorate, U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center as a facility manager specialist.

He retired March 1, with nearly 35 years of service.

Throughout his career he received numerous awards and letters of appreciation and commendation.

He and his wife Sherlie plan to remain in the area. They have three children and one grandson. Jones enjoys fishing and boating and said his retirement plans include doing lots of both.

APG Cutdoor Journal

Commentary: Another health scare?



Photo by GEORGE 'BART' ROBERTS, APG WILDLIFE & MARINE LAW ENFORCEMENT

BILL ARMSTRONG

APG Wildlife and Marine Law Enforcement

An interesting piece of information crossed my desk the other day, in fact it came from two different sources: the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the North Dakota Department of Health, and it's certainly generating an amazing amount of controversy in the hunting community.

Based on a recommendation from a doctor (dermatologist) in Bismarck, N.D., who claims to have found lead residue in 53 of 95 packages of ground deer meat that had been donated by hunters to local charity food banks, the NDDH directed that between 4,000 and 5,000 pounds of donated venison be disposed of in landfills.

Following North Dakota's lead, offi-

10 that their laboratory tests also confirmed the presence of varying amounts of lead fragments in a number of venison samples collected from Minnesota's Hunter Harvested Venison Donation Program. In their study of 299 samples of donated venison, lab tests supposedly found varying levels of lead fragments in 76 of the

According to some of the news releases I've seen, the rhetoric between various hunting groups and the MDAG and the NDDH is really heating up. Darren LaSorte, an NRA Hunting Policy spokesman, stated recently, "The North Dakota Health Department's actions were reckless and have caused unnecessary fear to spread across the hunting community. Whether the meat samples from the food banks in North Dakota really contain lead is something that should be confirmed by independent tests."

While the National Shooting Sports Foundation went a step further by releasing a statement, "There is absolutely no peer-reviewed scientific evidence to support the unfortunate and unnecessary overreaction by health officials in North Dakota to have food pantries discard perfectly good meat."

It said the decision "was based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the chemistry of lead and the human digestive system. The state is needlessly creating a scare upon hunters that has no basis in science.

From what I understand, the subject of contaminated venison was also brought up recently in a forum at the International

cials from the MDAG announced April Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Phoenix and Arizona, and the consensus of their Health Committee was that there wasn't much to worry about. According to published reports, Curtis Taylor, West Virginia's Wildlife Chief labeled North Dakota's decision to toss all of the hunter-donated venison into a landfill was "a knee-jerk" reaction.

For a number of years APG hunters have enthusiastically supported the donation program in Maryland, contributing hundreds of deer to the needy and less fortunate. According to statistics provided by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, since 1997 Maryland hunters have donated in excess of 282 tons of venison to feed the hungry. That's a pretty impressive figure. The "Farmers and Hunters Feed the Hungry" program in Maryland estimates that this effort has resulted in more than 2.2 million meals for the needy.

Personally I process my own venison, discarding the damaged or spoiled tissue, and I'm fairly confident that most other hunters do the same. It would be my guess. that if a problem does exist with lead residue in donated venison, it's not the fault of the well intentioned hunter, but the result of poor handling procedures at the commercial meat processing facilities. It will be very interesting to see how the MDNR responds to this issue; hopefully they will base their decision on a thorough review of the question by qualified health officials. It would be a shame to see a very worthwhile and charitable program for the needy like "Farmers and Hunters Feed the Hungry" fall by the wayside.



Think before you sink

CHRIS FRAZIER

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/ Safety Center

As the winter chill gives way to warmer temperatures, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center is reminding Soldiers to be mindful of the risks associated with water-related activities.

Over the last 10 years, the Army has experienced 95 water-related accidents involving one or more Soldier fatalities. In fiscal year 2007, there were 14 Army waterrelated accidents, resulting in 15 deaths.

With the summer months approaching, many Soldiers will be drawn to some form of water, whether it's a swimming pool, river, pond, lake or ocean. However, before participating in any water-related activity, Soldiers need to take the proper safety precautions and assess the readiness of everyone in their group especially children.

Perhaps the most important precaution a Soldier can take is to learn to swim. No matter how confident Soldiers may be in their swimming abilities, they should always bring a buddy along before taking the plunge.

"Even the most experienced swimmer can encounter difficulties in the water," said



Col. Randall Cheeseborough, USACRC Ground Task Force director. "The battle buddy system is an excellent combat multiplier to help prevent a tragic accident from occurring. Soldiers must take care of each other, on and off duty."

Another safety measure Soldiers often tend to overlook is the importance of wearing a personal flotation device while on a watercraft. According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics, small-boat accidents are the most frequent cause of drowning fatalities nationwide. In half the water-related accidents in FY 2007, the Soldier did not plan on entering the water but went overboard from a fishing boat or similar watercraft.

In one of those accidents,

a Soldier drowned when his kayak capsized in the ocean, and he was caught in a rip current. The Soldier was not an experienced swimmer and wasn't wearing a PFD. Just weeks later, another Soldier drowned when the canoe he was sharing with two other Soldiers overturned about 200 meters from the shoreline. While attempting to swim to shore, the Soldier became fatigued and went underwater. His body was later recovered by emergency services divers. None of the Soldiers were wearing PFDs.

The Coast Guard estimates PFDs could have saved the lives of more than 80 percent of boating fatality victims. Because accidents can occur

with terrifying speed and leave no time to reach stowed PFDs, the Coast Guard recommends they be worn at all times when on the water.

While taking the time to put on a PFD is certainly a wise decision, some Soldiers choose to negate it with a poor decision - operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Coast Guard statistics reveal that a boat operator with a blood alcohol concentration above .10 percent is estimated to be more than 10 times more likely to die in an accident than a sober operator. To make matters worse, watercraft motion, vibration, engine noise, sun, wind and spray all intensify the effects of alcohol and drugs.

"These environmental stressors can cause fatigue and dramatically affect a watercraft operator's coordination, judgment, vision and reaction time," Cheeseborough said. "Operating a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is extremely dangerous. When it comes to water-related activities, leave the alcohol on shore.'

For more information on drowning prevention and boating safety, visit https://crc. army.mil or http://www.uscgboating.org/.

Legion, and the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network.

Dress for success, bring plenty of resumes and be prepared for on-the-spot interviews.

For more information, visit the RecruitMilitary Web site, http://www.recruitmilitary.

DoD holds BRAC job

The Department of Defense will hold a BRAC Job Fair, 2 to 7 p.m., June 4, at the Harford Community College (The Susquehanna Center) 401 Thomas Run Road, Bel

Vets First), The American Air. Jobs include engineers, contract specialists, contract officers, management analysts, program analysts, logisticians, contract managers and program managers. Job applicants will meet with DOD recruiters and can apply for federal jobs located at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

> For more information, call Stacey Lambert, 410-939-4240, or e-mail slambert@ swnetwork.org.

Blood Drive May 29

Save lives and donate blood at the Armed Services Blood Program blood drive, noon to 4 p.m., May 29, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center,

Hatem Bridge Project will cause major traffic delays

Beginning June 9, the Hatem Bridge Preservation Project will take place. Permanent lane closures also will go into effect and construction is expected to take three years to complete.

Effective immediately, commuters who currently have a valid AVI decal can renew it annually for free. The toll plaza at the Tydings Bridge will not accept AVI decals. Another option is to purchase the E-Z Pass electronic toll collection system which has special commuter rates. The E-Z Pass can be used on the Tydings Bridge, all MTA bridges and tunnels, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Delaware and more.

One lane will remain open in each direction, except during scheduled times, to allow delivery of construction materials. This will provide predictable traffic patterns so drivers will know what to expect. Once all lanes are reopened, the yearly fee for the AVI decals will be reinstated.

The project will replace the entire concrete roadway (deck) and include the installation of a new, permanent jersey barrier in the center of the bridge. Motorists should expect delays, especially during the morning and afternoon rush hours. Plan for additional travel time or consider alternate routes.

For more information or to receive a free AVI decal, visit the administration office at the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge or visit www.hatembridge.com. To purchase an E-Z Pass commuter plan, visit www.ezpass.com.

Post Shorts

For more information, call Alan Smith-Hicks, 410-306-1206; for appointments, visit the Armed Services Blood Program Web site, www.militarylifeforce.com.

building 3326, Erie Street.

Aberdeen Proving Ground Community Yard Sale

Army Community Service will sponsor a community yard sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 31 for APG residents. Edgewood Area residents are welcome to set up tables along the Rodman Road strip on either side of the road. The Thrift Store will be open for donations for unsold items; receipts are available for tax deductions.

For more information, call Diana Hayes, information referral and program manager, 410-278-4372, e-mail diana. hayes@us.army.mil.

Register for next Strong Bonds seminar

Register now for the next "Strong Bonds," an all-expense paid three-day, two-night couples training conference July 31 through Aug. 2 for 14 married couples.

The training will be held at the Harbor Inn Hotel, St. Michaels, Md.

To register, visit https:// www.strongbonds.org/.

For more information, contact the APG Chaplains' Office, 410-278-4333.

Summer youth volunteer opportunities at the Perry Point VA **Facility**

The Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System Office of Voluntary Service is now accepting applications for youths ages 14 to 17 from Harford and Cecil counties. Youths have the opportunity to fulfill school community service requirements, explore career opportunities and support the men and women who served this country in uniform through its Summer Youth Volunteer Program.

Students must be able to commit at least 75 hours of volunteer service throughout the summer and may work no more than three days per week.

For more information, call 410-642-1038.

Customer Training on the Acquisition **Process**

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Edgewood Contracting Division and the Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center will host a workshop entitled, "Customer Training on the Acquisition Process" to teach RDECOM customers about the acquisition process 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m., June 10 in the

Edgewood Conference Center, building E-4810.

Training, provided by the staff from RDECOM ECD and ECBC, will include an overview of the contracting process and Statements of Work and guidance on how they should be prepared; and the RDE-COM EAC Web site, www. rdecom-ac.army.mil.

Tentative future workshop topics include preparing procurement request packages, solicitations and awarding contracts, to name a few.

For more information, email Gwen Johnson, gwen. johnson@us.army.mil or Carol Edmead, carol.edmead@ us.army.mil.

Command Sgt. Maj. **Rivera retires June 6**

Command Sgt. Maj. Luis A. Rivera, senior enlisted advisor to the 143rd Ordnance Battalion, will retire 4 p.m., June 6 at Ordnance Circle, in front of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools. Attendees are asked to RSVP with Denise Corbett, 410-436-5157.

Soldiers will have an opportunity for personal farewells during organizational day activities May 31 at the Edgewood Area sports field.

Military in Transition Virtual Job Fair June 10

A live online virtual job fair is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., June 10.

Attendees can register and visit this event through June 1. Participants can meet with employers from their home, office or from the field. This event is the first of a series of four virtual events designed to bring employers together with transitioning military, service disabled, Guard, Reserve and military spouses.

Hear presentations by employers, career experts, veteran advisors and others. Participate in on-line chats on topics of interest. Register now and receive daily updates. Login on June 10.

For more information or to register, visit www.careercentralonline.com, or contact B. Hughes, 703-647-7452, or e-mail BHughes@careerce tralonline.com.

Veteran's medical center to host welcome home event

The Washington, D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center, located at 50 Irving Street, NW, Washington, D.C. will host a Welcome Home Celebration program to provide outreach services to Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom veterans, active duty service members and their Families, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 14, at the medical center.

The celebration will offer valuable information, education and support. Federal, state and local representatives will be on hand with information about readjustment, employment and academic services; veterans' benefits and other services. In addition, veterans can receive health screenings and consultative services. Food, entertainment and giveaways will be provided.

For more information, contact Paula Gorman, 202-745-8100 or Jean Langbein, 202-745-8338.

234th Army **Birthday Specialty** Meal June 13

The 234th Army Birthday Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Aberdeen Area dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m.,

During this event all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The holiday meal rate of \$6.35 applies to any officer, enlisted member and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$5.40 applies to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The 234th Army Birthday Specialty Meal Menu includes: buffalo wings with bleu cheese dressing, grilled steak with sautéed mushrooms and onions, broccoli cheese and rice casserole, barbecued ribs, pizza burger, chili dogs with cheese and onions, chicken tenders, grilled polish sausage, submarine sandwiches, French fries, onion rings, potato chips and pretzels, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, baked potato, baked sweet potato and all the fixings, buttered corn, cauliflower combo, Southern style potato and macaroni salad, cole slaw with creamy dressing, assorted condiments, hot dinner rolls, corn bread, assorted breads, Army birthday cake, cherry cheesecake, big chocolate chip cookies, watermelon, assorted fresh fruits, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green, 410-306-1393/1398.

2008 Army Birthday Ball June 14

Register now for the 2008 Army Birthday Ball celebrating America's Army, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., June 14, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center located on 801 Mount Vernon Place N.W., Washington, D.C.

Tickets cost \$80 per person with a limited number of discounted tickets at \$40 per person available to GS-7, E-6 and below on a first-come, first served basis. Cost includes an elegant evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. The event is open to all active duty, National Guard, Reserve, DA civilians, government contractors, Family members, retirees, veterans and invited guests.

For more information or to make reservations, visit the AKO 2008 Army Birthday Ball Registration Web site, https://www.us.army.mil/ suite/page/137983 or https:// www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp.

CPR, AED classes available

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Service is offering CPR and automated external defibrillator classes on APG.

Two classes will be held 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month.

In the Edgewood Area, classes will be held at the Gunpowder Club, building E-4650 in the Osprey Room, on June 18, Aug. 20, Oct. 15 and Dec.

In the Aberdeen Area, classes will be held at the Post Theater July 16, Sept. 17 and Nov. 19.

Class size will be limited to 30 participants and will be filled on a first-come-firstserve basis. Pre-registration will be required.

For more information or to register, call Raymond Campbell, 410-306-0566, or e-mail Ray.Campbell@apg. army.mil.

CBRNIAC Forum

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Information Analysis Center, or CBRNIAC, will hold its first Technology Forum, 10 a.m. to noon, June 19, in the Berger Building E-3549 Cafeteria. The forum subject is "The Future of Toxicology in CB Defense."

For more information, call Dr. Jim King, CBRNIAC, 410-676-9030, or e-mail kingj@ battelle.org.

June Well-Being meeting

The June meeting will be held at the APG Chapel, 9:30 a.m., June 19.

For more information, call Sheryl Speerstra, 410-278-4521.

Post Deployment Support Group meets at APG

A"Soldiers" (including Sailors, Airmen and Marines) Post Deployment Support Group will be held 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Aberdeen Area Chapel Conference

- The group is "open," which means no appointment
- The group is "confidential," which means that no record of attendance is kept. The purpose of the group

is to offer a safe place to talk about post deployment issues and find answers to questions. For more information,

call Joseph O'Rourke, 410-278-1755; Dr. David Pollin, 410-278-1715, or Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Leathers, 410-278-9313.

Bio-Threat Agents Detection Conference

The Inter-Agency Steering Committee extends an invitation to attend the Third National Conference on Environmental Sampling and Detection for Bio-Threat Agents, Dec. 2 through 4, at the Las Vegas Hilton, located at 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nev.

The Department of Defense's Chemical Biological Medical Systems, Joint Project Manager for Biological Defense, and Technical Support Working Group, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security have organized the conference to create a forum for dialogue between government, industry, academia, and first responders to address critical issues in environmental sampling and biological detection.

Attendees are invited to submit an abstract for oral and poster presentations. This is an excellent opportunity to share research with key decisionmakers in the sampling and detection arenas.

To reserve a space, visit http://www.lvhilton.com/.

For more information or to register, visit http://www. sampling-conference.com/

(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at www.apgnews. apg.army.mil under Shorts.)

Community Notes

FRIDAY MAY 23 SUNSET CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$12 for children under age 10.

The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats and upper Chesapeake Bay. Reservations can be made with credit card.

For more information, reservations or departure times, call 410-939-4078.

SATURDAY

MAY 24 CRITTER DINNERTIME

Come watch the turtles, fish and snakes eat and learn more about these fascinating creatures. This free program will be held 10:30 a.m. for all ages. No registration required.

For more information or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

BUGGIN' OUT

Let's go find some bugs. Hike around the Discovery Trail turning over logs, rocks and even digging in the ground. Dress appropriately to get dirty. This free program will be held 2:30 to 4 p.m. for ages 5 to adult. Ages 5 to 8 must be accompanied by an adult. The program is free but registration is required. For more information, to register, or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

PADDLE AND PICNIC KAYAKTRIP

Come paddle to Snake Island, go ashore and enjoy lunch. Bring a bag lunch. This program will be held 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. Cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

For more information, to register, or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

RACE

The Harford County Homeless Shelter will hold its first Annual 5K Run/Walk, 8 a.m. at the Arena Club, located on 2304 East Churchville Road, Bel Air. Pre-race registration will be held 4 to 7 p.m., May 23, at Charm City Run located on 126 South Main Street. 1st Floor, Bel Air. Race day registration will take place 7 to 7:45 a.m. at the Arena Club. Proceeds will benefit the Faith Communities and Civic Agencies United. Awards will be given to the fastest individuals (by age), fastest teams, door prizes and most money raised. A minimum donation of \$25

covers race entry, refreshments, T-shirts and race bags. Make checks payable to FCCAU.

For more information or to register, visit http://www. runforshelter.info/runforshelter_Registration_Form.

pdf. **BASKET BINGO**

Basket Bingo to benefit VFW Post 8185 Men's Auxiliary will be held at VFW Post 8185,

Route 222, Port Deposit. Doors open at 6 p.m., Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 per person for all paper cards. Food, beverages, baked goods, door prizes and raffles will be available. No smoking is allowed.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338 or VFW Post 8185, 410-642-9297.

MARGARITA NIGHT

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer Margarita Night, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$40 per person (21 years of age or older). The historical oyster dredger will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats area as margaritas are served and Jimmy Buffet tunes play. Also includes light refreshments and beer. Credit cards are accepted.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-

SUNDAY

MAY 25 KAYAK WITH YOUR KIDS

Come spend some quality time with the kids and officially open the summer outdoor fun season on Memorial Day weekend with kayaking around the estuary. Special age limit, 5 years or minimum 30 pounds, only one 5- to 10-year-old per boat. Bring water and a substantial snack. This program will be held 12 to 2:30 p.m. for ages 5 to adult. Cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required. For more information, to register, or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

BOORDY VINEYARD WINE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage

Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Boordy Wine Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$40 per person (21 years of age or older). The ship will take a 90 minute cruise around the Susquehanna Flats area while passengers enjoy fine wines from Boordy Winery and music. In addition, soda, beer, cheese and a fruit platter will be served.

A representative Boordy will be onboard to tell about the wines, the winery and to answer any questions. Passengers will also enjoy a selection of music. Reservations can be made with credit card.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078.

MONDAY

MAY 26 LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a narrated lighthouse cruise, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., aboard the Skipjack Martha Lewis in Havre de Grace. Tickets cost \$35 for adults and \$17 for children ages 10 and under. Reservations are required. Cost includes a three-hour cruise enjoying water views of three area lighthouses: Concord Point, Fishing Battery Island and Turkey Point. A box lunch is also included. Credit cards are accepted. For more information, for

reservations or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold a Memorial Day service 11 a.m. The club and bar will be closed during the ceremony. Refreshments will be served following the service. For more information, call

410-642-2771. WEDNESDAY

MAY 28

AFTERNOON TEA

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer an Afternoon Tea Cruise, 2 to 3:30 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$35 per person. Finger sandwiches, scones and savory desserts will be served. Cred-

it cards will be accepted. For more information or to make a reservation, call 410-939-4078.

FRIDAY MAY 30 ANNUAL HARFORD

HOSPICE REGATTA

Harford Hospice, a member of Upper Chesapeake/ St. Joseph Home Care, will hold its ninth annual Harford Hospice Regatta 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., next to the Concord Point Lighthouse located on Concord and Lafayette

streets, Havre de Grace. Tickets cost \$50 per person and include live music provided by the Alton Street Band, steak and chicken donated by Outback Steakhouse, beer and soda, silent auction and a raffle. A cash bar will be available.

All proceeds will benefit hospice patients and their Family members.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation, 443-643-3460.

SUNSET CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$12 for children ages 10 and under. The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna

Flats area for a relaxing sail and a beautiful sunset. Call for times. Reservations can be made with credit card. For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

SATURDAY

MAY 31 CHILDREN'S GARDENING IV

Grow food and flowers at Leight Center and at home. Enjoy crafts, games, and science disguised as fun. Learn about seeds, life cycles, and growing food and flowers in a watershed-friendly way. This program will be held 1 to 2 p.m. for ages 5 to 10. Cost is \$5 per student. Registration is required.

For more information, to register, or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY **MAY 29 AND 30 SUNSET CRUISE**

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise on the Skipjack Martha Lewis, May 29 and 30. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$12 for children under age 10.

The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats and upper Chesapeake Bay. Reservations can be made with credit card.

For more information, reservations or departure times, call 410-939-4078

MONDAY

JUNE 2 CANCER SURVIVORS LUNCHEON

Upper Chesapeake Health will honor cancer survivors at a free luncheon, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Richlin Ballroom located on 1700 Van Bibber Road, Edgewood. Guest (Editors Note: More calendar speaker will be Dr. Wendy "Embracing Life as a Cancer Community Notes.)

Survivor." Cancer survivors or those who want to recognize a survivor are invited to attend. Seating is limited; registration is required.

For more information or to register, call 1-800-515-0044.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 4 BRAC JOB FAIR

The Department of Defense will hold a BRAC Job Fair. 2 to 7 p.m. at Harford Community College (Susquehanna Center), 401 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air. Jobs include engineers, contract specialists, contract officers, management analysts, program analysts, logisticians, contract managers and program managers. Job applicants will meet with DoD recruiters. Apply for federal jobs located at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

For more information, call Stacey Lambert, 410-939-4240, e-mail slambert@ swnetwork.org.

SATURDAY JUNE 7 WALKTHE ROCK

Upper Chesapeake Health invites everyone to join the Walk the Rock for Women's Health, 7:15 to 11:30 a.m., at the Bulle Rock Golf Course. There will be a 5K walk through Bulle Rock Golf Course followed by a lecture on women's health.

Health screenings and tickets to the Ladies Professional Golf Association tournament will be provided to participants.

The walk, screenings, lecture and tickets are free.

Participants must use the LPGA bus transportation from Ripken Stadium. For more information or to register, call HealthLink, 1-800-515-0044.

events can be seen at www. Harphman who will present apgnews.apg.army.mil under

Obstacles of Course Team travels to Knoxville

SCHOOL LIAISON

the State DI Tournament held at Towson University on April 12, where they placed 3rd. (See APG News article, May 1, page 13.) The crew put together a remote control crab robot that tunneled through a menacing shark, dodged a blinking lighthouse, moved through pillars of coral, traveled under a bridge of sea grass, slalomed through four iridescent sea anemones, proceeded over a surfboard in the sand (using ramp/fulcrum machine technolo-

The Hall's Crossroads Destination Imagi- gy,) climbed the stairs of a broken boardwalk nation Team Obstacles of Course conquered and leaped over a 7-inch gap and then untir-16 other teams from throughout Maryland at ingly repeated the 'beach course' again and

> DI Global Finals are taking place through May 25 in Knoxville, Tenn.

> Miles Thompson, Trideum Corporation robotics engineer and enthusiast at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, and colleague and software engineer, Charles Ford, are confident the team will be a success.

For more information, contact the school. 410-273-5524.

Churchville Elementary sending care packages

In celebration of its Patriot Program, Churchville Elementary School is supporting the military serving overseas by joining together with "Soldiers Angels" to collect and send out care packages. Each month the students can bring items to be sent in care packages.

For more information, contact Trisha Orndorff, 410-836-2324 or e-mail jtorndorff@veri-

Register for Harford Glen summer education

The Maryland Summer Center for Action Investigation is currently accepting applications for their program July 14 through 25. The program is located at Harford Glen Environmental Education Center. The program runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students entering 5th through 8th grades are encouraged to apply.

The program develops primary research skills using Harford Glen as its focus. Last year students conducted research on the pine tree infestation and whitetail deer population. To view last year's reports, visit www.hcps.org/gifted. Parents can register online at www.marylandpublicschools.org/summercenters.

For more information, contact Eric Cromwell at 410-588-5354 or e-mail eric.cromwell@

For more information on any APG school related topic, contact Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857 or e-mail eileen.campbell@apg.army.mil.



FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

BUNCO time coming to

Story by YVONNE JOHNSON APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, in cooperation with the World Bunco Association, will hold Bunco tournaments with nightly prizes and drawings.

The tournaments will be held June 12 and July 10 at Top of the Bay. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and games start at 7 p.m.

Participants can sign up for one, two or all three dates.

Players must be 18 or older and all players will be entered into a National Grand Prize drawing.

Marketing, said that the games will be played throughout the summer at 55 Army installations.

While traditionally thought of a lady's game, Lockhart said that anyone is welcome to play.

'Anyone eligible to use FMWR is eligible to play, male or female," Lockhart said.

Although seats are filling up, there are still openings, she added.

Players should register online at www.apgmwr. com. Click on Events and then choose the date or

Christina Lockhart, FMWR mation will be sent. There be applicable. is no registration fee.

Prizes include

Volunteers are needed. Anyone who knows how to play Bunco and would like to assist the staff should contact Louise Glose, Top of the Bay, 410-278-3062.

The event is sponsored by MWR and the World Bunco Association.

The Rules of Bunco www.buncorules.com

*The following is a summary of rules to give readers an idea of how the game is played. Bunco rules vary widely and dates to register. A confir- the following may or may not

Bunco (also: Bunko or Bonko) is a parlor game played in teams with three dice. A winning throw in Bunco is to throw 3-of-a-kind of a specified number.

There are six rounds in each set of Bunco. Tables are designated High, Medium or Low and it is the High table that controls the pace of play by starting each round by ringing a bell. The scorekeeper at each table is the first to roll the dice.

Players earn points by rolling the three dice. In each round players are trying to roll the same number as the round,

or the target number, sometimes called a mark.

One point is awarded for each target number rolled successfully.

Five points are awarded for rolling 3-of-a-kind of any number except the current target number.

Bunco is called when rolling 3-of-a-kind of the target number. For example, if a player rolls 3 threes in round three, rolling Bunco is worth 21 points, but the player has to yell it out to get credit for it.

Players roll as long as they are scoring one or more points. When they fail to roll the target number on any of the dice, the dice is passed to the player on the left and the scorekeeper records the cumulative score on the Table Tally as the temporary team score.

The round is over when the High table reaches 21 points and rings the bell. The round is over for everyone.

At the end of each round the winning team from the Middle and Low tables move up to a higher table. The losing team from the High table moves to a Low table. During the switch, partners are changed.

At the end of the Bunco session, all players total their wins and losses on their scorecards for a chance at prizes.

SKIES Unlimited

For more information or to register for a SKIES Unlimited class, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. For an appointment, e-mail stacie.umbarger@ conus.army.mil.

Drivers Ed

Drivers Education classes are conducted by Rules Driving School, Inc. Monday thru Thursday, 6 to 9:15 p.m. (Classes are also available 2:30 to 5:45 p.m.) During the summer schedule, which begins June 23, classes will only be offered 2:30 to 5:45 p.m. There are no classes on federal holidays.

Classes are held in Aberdeen at the Community Center, 34 N. Philadelphia Blvd., room 304, June 2 thru 17; June 23 thru July 8; July 14 thru 29 and Aug. 4 thru 19. For more information about the class in the Edgewood, call 410-278-7571.

Class includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction.

Cost is \$295 per student. Last day to register for the class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between 15.9 and 18 years of age. Parents must attend the first day of class. Open to all DoD ID cardholders.

Kids in the Kitchen

Kids ages 8 to 14 can join Chef Paul for Kids in the Kitchen at Super Suppers, located on Route 40, Havre de Grace, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., June 6. Cost is \$20 per student. A maximum of 8 students will be allowed. Get in on the fun by

Tickets: \$25 In Advance

making great kid-friendly entrees for the Family. Children will make friends and food with others their own age while learning the importance of clean food preparation and nutrition. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

Free babysitting class

Become a Red Cross Certified babysitter after taking the free 4-H/Army Child and Youth Services babysitting class for ages 13 and older. The class will be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 17 and 18, at Child and Youth Services, building 2752. The objectives are to familiarize participants with the responsibilities of babysitting. This class is open to all DoD ID card holders.

Brazilian Jujitsu

www.apgmwr.com Aberdeen Proving Ground Family and MWR dictemaster www.ticketmaster.com

A Brazilian jujitsu program will be held at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, through June 19.

Beginner classes will be held 6 to 6:45 p.m.; advanced classes will be held 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.

Through the practice of jujitsu and kickboxing, students will learn the best form of self-defense, how to defend themselves against bigger, stronger and faster opponents and develop leadership and teamwork skills. All students will advance their skills no matter their gender, size or natural ability.

Cost is \$85 per student, or \$240 per student for all three classes.

Aberdeen & Edgewood Area swimming pools

Olympic Swimming Pool, building 3325

Opens May 24 weekends only: May 24 thru June 8, plus Memorial Day, May 26

- Daily operation: June 13 thru Aug. 24
- Labor Day weekend: Aug. 30 thru Sept. 1
- Closes Monday, Sept. 1
- Daily operation schedule • Child & Youth Service Day Camp: 9 to 11

a.m., June 16 thru Aug. 21 • Open swim: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Lap swim lane available during standard

Weekend operation schedule:

Open swim: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

NOTE: Due to concert preparation, this pool will be closed June 18 thru 23 inclusive. Pool will resume normal operations on June 24.

Shore Swimming Pool, building 2031

Swimming Lessons: July 7 thru Aug. 8. Levels 1-6, adult, parent/toddler; Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (To be determined by customer demand)

- Daily operation schedule: June 18 thru 23
- Open swim: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

• Lap swim lane available during standard hours.

Weekend operation schedule:

June 28 thru Aug. 17, Saturday and Sunday Open swim: 12 to 5 p.m.

NOTE: Due to concert preparation, this pool will be closed June 18 thru 23 inclusive. Pool will resume normal operations on June 24.

Edgewood Area Bayside Swimming Pool, building E-4655

Opens May 24 weekends only: May 24 thru

June 8, plus Memorial Day, May 26 • Daily operation: June 13 thru Aug. 24

- Labor Day Weekend: Aug 30 thru Sept. 1 • Closes Monday, Sept. 1
- Daily operation schedule
- CYS Day Camp: 9 to 11 a.m.
- (June 16 thru Aug. 21)
- Open Swim: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Lap swim lane available during standard

Weekend operation schedule

Open swim: 11:30 a.m. thru 7 p.m.

Entries being accepted-2008 Army Arts and **Crafts Contest**

May 25 is the submission deadline for the 2008 Army Arts and Crafts Contest. Authorized FMWR patrons, with the exception of employees of the Army Arts and Crafts program, are eligible to enter. All submissions must be the entrant's original work and must be completed within 24 months of the beginning of the contest year.

For more details, write to FWRC Attn: FMWR-CR (Arts & Crafts), 4700 King Street - 4th floor, Alexandria, VA, 22302-4418 or call Linda Ezernieks, 703-681-7754.

Baltimore Orioles Games

Purchase tickets for Orioles baseball at Camden Yards:

- Pittsburgh Pirates, 1:35
- p.m., June 15 • Kansas City Royals, 7:05
- p.m., July 3 • Detroit Tigers, 7:05 p.m.,
- Chicago White Sox, 7:05
- p.m., Aug. 25 • Oakland Athletics, Sept.
- 7, TBD
- Cleveland Indians, 7:05 p.m., Sept. 9
- Toronto Blue Jays, Sept. 28, 1:35 p.m.

For more information on other Baltimore Orioles games or to purchase tickets, call 410-278-4907/4011.

Do-it-yourself New York City tours

FMWR has scheduled several day trips to New York City - eight hours for sightseeing, shopping, seeing a Broadway matinee, venturing into China Town and more June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18

and Nov. 15.

Cost is \$40 per person. The bus will depart 7:55 a.m. and will return 10 p.m. Open to all DoD card holders.

Activities/Events

For more information or to register, call or visit FMWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Boxing Night returns to APG

The 143rd Ordnance Battalion will face the 16th Ordnance Battalion for a night of boxing 6 p.m., June 7, on the Hoyle Gymnasium parking lot. In case of inclement weather, it will be held in the Hoyle Gym.

Purchase tickets at FMWR Registration, building 3326, or call 410-278-4011/4907 or the Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210, or call 410-436-7134.

Ticket prices are active duty military, \$5; non-military, \$10; ringside seats, \$20 and children 6 and younger are free. Event is open to the public.

Sign up now for the **Spring Aerobics program**

Spring forward with Spring Aerobics at the Aberdeen Area Fitness Center, building 320, through May 30. Cost is \$44 per person.

Cost includes a different aerobic workout each day 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 5 to 6 p.m., Monday and Wednesday.

Lunchtime workouts include Monday, strength training with Barbara; Tuesday, Yoga with Steve; Wednesday, step and sculpt with April; and Thursday, kickboxing with Ray. Evening aerobics on Monday and Wednesday includes step with Joe.

At least 12 participants are needed to hold each class.

For more information or to sign up, call 410-278-9725.

Hip Hop classes

The Aberdeen Area Youth Center, located in building 2522, will hold Hip Hop Dance classes for ages 8 through 18. Classes for ages 8 to 13 will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; classes for ages 14 to 18 will be held 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All classes

will be held on Mondays. This is a fun and energetic dance class, great for all ages and levels.

For more information or to register, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479 for an appointment.

New York City Liberty Tours

FMWR Leisure Travel Services offers two New York City Liberty Tours, July 19.

Cruise aboard the famous Circle Line cruise ship down Manhattan harbor to the Statue of Liberty for the best view in the city. Following the cruise, enjoy lunch on the coach touring famous and not-so-famous New York sights narrated by a professional and friendly step on guide. Then explore and shop in midtown Manhattan. Shop for souvenirs, browse at Macy's or stroll Times Square.

Cost is \$90 per person and includes roundtrip transportation, cruise and lunch.

The bus will depart 7:20 a.m. and return 9:30 p.m.

For more information or to purchasetickets, visitFMWRLeisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907, or email MWR-LeisureTravel@apg. army.mil.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

Week of May 19

Special #1: Hot dogs, curly fries, cookie and soda for \$6.95.

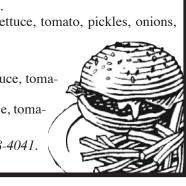
Special #2: Fish filet with cheese, choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, curly fries, cookie and soda for \$6.35.

Week of May 26

Special #1: Ham and cheese sub, choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips, cookie and soda for \$5.45. Special #2: Chicken tender sub, choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, toma-

to, pickles, onions, potato chips, cookie and soda for \$6.55.

For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.



With Blind Melan THE AEGIS CECIL-WHIG and Special Guest CHASE BARGAINEER 100.75 the buy Blackberry Smoke No er WWW.APGMWR.COM THE COURSES AT ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND SAVE \$50 ON A NEW ANNUAL HARFORD COUNTY MEMBERSHIP CHOOSE FROM A 5 OR 7 DAY PLAN. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 410-278-4794. PLAY ONE OF HARFORD COUNTY'S OLDEST GOLF COURSES OUR COURSES ARE THE COUNTY'S BEST KEPT SECRET **GOLF LESSONS AVAILABLE** DRIVING RANGE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Holocaust survivor shares story of survival during APG observance

Story by

YVONNE JOHNSON

Local schools joined members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community in remembering the victims of the Holocaust during the Days of Remembrance observance at the Post Theater May 7.

Hosted by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, attendees included students from C. Milton Wright High School and the Aberdeen and Bel Air middle schools.

David H. Lyon, ARL Weapons and Materiel Research Directorate, served as the master of ceremonies and Lt. Col. Jonas Vogelhut, Joint Personal Effects Depot product manager, offered the opening prayer and led the candle lighting ceremony, which "gives thanks for the years of life of the departed."

"We must remember what happened else we are doomed to let history repeat itself," Vogelhut said. "We ask blessings for our Soldiers and Warfighters and for the children who have joined us here today."

Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, extended a special welcome to the program's guest speakers, Holocaust survivor, Rubin Sztajer, and his wife Regina.

Weissman said that the program, "reminds Americans what can happen when bigotry and hatred become widespread."

He said that between 1935 and 1945 Jews were the primary victims of the Holocaust and that a total of 11 million were exterminated.

Commenting on the program's theme, "Do Not Stand Silent: Remembering Kristallnacht 1938," Weissman noted that Kristallnacht means 'night of broken glass.'

"It is our responsibility to remember there is a right way and a wrong way," he said. "Let us become aware of our responsibility to our fellow human beings.'

Regina Sztajer reviewed the background of Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler and his introduction to anti-Semitism then introduced her husband who shared his story of survival through three concentration camps.

Rubin Sztajer talked about how he and his Family were forced into a ghetto when he was 14, where they lived until 1942 when he was separated from his Family and taken to Markstadt, a forced labor camp where he lived until 1943.

He also is a survivor of the Funfteichen and Bergen Belsen concentration camps until his liberation at age 19.

Although he was reunited with one sister after the liberation by Allied forces, Sztajer never saw his other Family members again.

It took three years of treatment to recover his health and he eventually arrived in the United States in May 1949. He worked for the same company for 43 years, retiring at

He speaks annually to thousands of school children, sharing his sto-



Photo by SGT 1ST CLASS MICHAEL JONES, OMMS

C. Milton Wright High School students participate in a candle lighting ceremony during the Days of Remembrance program at the Post Theater May 7. From left, Bryan Hill, Corey Schmidt lighting the candle, Colin Rippin and Korey Dietz.

ries of the loss of freedom, death marches, mass graves, near starvation and constant abuses that marked his life during the Holocaust.

"I lost my Family, I lost my friend," Sztajer said. "I had every reason in the world to give up, but I didn't. As long as I can walk and as long as my lips can move, I will go around educating young people so that they won't be forgotten."

On behalf of Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, Weissman thanked attendees and guests and commended ARL "for the hard work that went into putting this program together."

Assisted by Master Sgt. Gail Brennan, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools equal opportunity advisor, Weissman presented awards to the winners of the Holocaust essay and display competition. The display winners included Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course classes 1308/52D and 1308/63B who tied for first place and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer class 1708 who came in second. The essay winner was Wallace Ciepiela, ARL associate director of operations.

The 1308/52D display included photographs and a slideshow with music while the 1308/63B display featured a wire covered display of photographs and an explanation of inmate markings.

"We found posters of patches during our research and we thought it would be a good idea to include them," said Staff Sgt. Luis Lopez, BNCOC class 1308/63B.

Sgt. David Hammond, 1308/52D, said their display focused on the events of Kristallnach.

"We went online to the Holocaust Museum Web site to try to keep it based on this year's theme," he said.

Stephane Douge, 1308/52D, who chose the music for the display.

"I went with 'Ave Maria' because it's not too sad and it has enough meaning to capture the attention," he said. "And this project really caught my attention as to how much suffering the Nazis caused."

Rubin Sztajer

A native of Klobuck, Poland, Rubin Sztajer's Family consisted of his parents, three sisters and two brothers.

Sztajer was 13 years old when the war began. At age 14, he and his Family were sent to live in a ghetto where they occupied one 8-foot by 12-foot room.

At the age of 16, on April 12, 1942, Rubin was taken from his home and Family to Markstadt, a forced labor concentration camp where he lived and worked from 1942 to June 1943 when he was transferred to the Funfteichen Concentration Camp which was guarded by S.S. officers.

For about two months, starting in October 1944, he participated in death marches in which prisoners, wearing wooden shoes, were marched from camp to camp in the snow. Anyone who slowed down was shot.

As Allied troops closed in on Germany, Rubin was shipped by cattle car to Bergen Belsen. Of the 100 people who began the journey, only 10 survived. In Bergen Belsen, he had to help bury the dead in mass graves consisting of thousands of bodies of both men and women. He remained at Bergen Belsen for six

At liberation at age 19, Rubin was found naked, unconscious and almost dead by his sister Gussie who coincidentally also was an inmate at the same camp. Gussie did everything she could to save his life, including carrying him to the train

"I learned quite a bit," added Sgt. to Frankfurt in search for his brother, Sam. It took three years for him to recover his health.

Rubin was sponsored by the Jewish Agency of Baltimore and arrived in the United States in May 1949. After several weeks he found a job in a cleaning company where he worked his way up to salesman and remained with the company for 43 years. He retired at age 70 and now spends his time attending Towson University, playing golf, exercising and enjoying his Family.

The Sztajers have been married for 51 years and they have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

Kristallnacht www.wikipedia.org

Also known as Crystal Night and the Night of Broken Glass, Kristallnacht occurred throughout Nazi Germany Nov. 9 through 10, 1938, when the Nazis coordinated an attack on Jewish people and their property in Germany and Germancontrolled lands as part of Hitler's

anti-Semitic policy. After the assassination of a German diplomat in Paris by a young German Jew on Nov. 7, 1938, skillfully orchestrated anti-Jewish violence broke out after the diplomat's death on Nov. 9.

In the early hours of Nov. 10, an orgy of coordinated destruction broke out in cities, towns and villages throughout the Third Reich. In all, 91 Jews were killed and 200,000 arrested and taken to concentration camps. Kristallnacht was the destruction in a single night of more than a thousand synagogues and the ransacking of thousands of Jewish businesses and homes. It marked the beginning of the systemic eradication of a people who could trace their ancestry in Germany to Roman times and served as the first part of the Holocaust that was to follow.







Photos by YVONNE JOHNSON, APG NEWS

The three winning displays from the Holocaust essay and display contest which were designed and created by classes from the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools Noncommissioned Officer Academy are displayed during the Days of Remembrance ceremony at the Post Theater May 7.

Health

From page 11

ways. Mental health resources have been increased at all installations, in addition to resources such as Military One Source. Mental health support is provided throughout the deployment cycle. Soldiers are screened and provided care as needed before, during and after deployment. Families are taken care of, too."

The Army Surgeon General demonstrated the importance of mental health support by establishing the Proponency Office for Behavioral Health, a cell of experts to coordinate programs and resources.

"We seek to bring together all the diverse behavioral health policies and programs along with manpower resources. We are at the forefront of behavioral health practices today and far into the future," said Col. Elspeth C. Ritchie, the office's director.

Soldiers and Families can get professional help through installation mental health clinics, and through primary care clinics using the new RESPECT-MIL program. Combatstress control teams are deployed to bring front-line assistance to Soldiers

in Iraq and Afghanistan. Chaplains, social workers and installation drug abuse or Family violence programs also can help deal with aspects of mental health issues.

All deploying Soldiers receive "Battlemind" training to help them prepare for the stresses they face in combat, and another round of training to help them adjust to returning home. There is Battlemind training for Families, too, to help them deal with the special stress of having a spouse or parent deployed.

Military One Source is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone hot line to connect military service members with a vari-

ety of support services. By calling 1-800-342-9647, Soldiers or Family members can arrange civilian mental health counseling without charge.

A wealth of information for Soldiers and Families is available at www.behavioralhealth.army.mil.

Concern for Soldiers who need mental health support does not stop even after they leave the service.

"The Department of Defense is working closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure Soldiers making the transition to civilians continue to get high quality mental health care," Diebold said.



Your health is KUSAHC's goal



TRICARE covers behavioral health for National Guard, Reserve before, during, after the call to duty

DoD Military Health System

Recent media reports suggest National Guard and Reserve deployments will continue into the future. TRICARE is fulfilling the behavioral health needs of these members and their Families, even when they're not activated.

"TRICARE recognizes the tremendous sacrifices of the Reserve Component during the Global War on Terror and is continually improving services for the National Guard and Reserve," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Management Activity. "Not only do they get the same benefits during activation that active duty service members receive, but TRICARE offers assistance during their transition before and after activation as well."

National Guard and Reserve members who receive delayed if services are not available at active duty orders for more the MTF, the service member er without a referral from

in support of a contingency operation (during a war or during a national emergency declared by the President or Congress) may be eligible for "early" TRICARE benefits prior to activation. The eligible Reserve Component member and their Family can obtain behavioral health services for up to 90 days prior to deployment if needed. The timeline for access to care depends on when the service member's orders are issued.

During activation, National Guard and Reserve members have access to the same benefits, services, and programs as active duty service members and should seek behavioral health services from their operational health asset or at a Military Treatment Facility. However, authorized network provider with a referral from their Primary Care Manager.

The Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Service is available for activated Guard and Reserve members and their TRICARE Prime enrolled Family members who need help locating and making appointments with civilian behavioral health care providers in their area. The toll-free numbers are: West Region, 1-866-651- 4970; North Region, 1-877-747-9579; and in the South Region the number is 1-877-298-3514. Hours vary

according to region. Prime enrolled Family members can receive the first eight outpatient behavioral health care visits per fiscal year (Oct. 1 through Sept. 30) from a network providtion from their Managed Care Support Contractor.

Upon deactivation, National Guard and Reserve members may qualify for Transitional Assistance Management Program coverage. The 180-day TAMP period begins on the Guard or Reserve member's separation date. Those covered under TAMP are eligible for TRICARE Standard/Extra or Prime (where available) and have access to TRICARE's behavioral health care benefits under that plan.

Deactivated Guard and Reserve members and their Families losing TRICARE eligibility and transitioning to civilian care can purchase coverage under the Continued Health Care Benefits Program. This premium-based program allows members to purchase coverage for up to 18 months after loss of eligibility; certain 36 months coverage. The benefits are similar to TRICARE Standard.

Members of the Selected Reserve who purchase TRICARE Reserve Select coverage are eligible for similar behavioral health benefits to TRICARE Standard or Extra. TRS beneficiaries can seek outpatient behavioral health services from TRICARE authorized providers without a referral for the first eight visits. Authorization is required for the ninth outpatient visit to continue treatment.

"The Veterans Administration offers behavioral health services for up to two years for members who served in support of a contingency operation," Granger said. "This, coupled with TRICARE benefits before, during and after activation, creates a comprehensive sys-

than 30 consecutive days can seek treatment from an a PCM or prior authoriza- Family members have up to tem for continuity of care."

Resources and information behavioral health benefits are on TRICARE's Mental Health and Behavior Web page http:// www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/ ProfileFilter.do?puri=%2Fh ome % 2FMentalHealthAndB ehavior. In the North Region, go to https://members.mhn. com/eos/home/tricareentry point?companyCode=trica re and in the South region check "AchieveSolutions" at www.humana-military.com. The West region provides 24/7 telephone access and crisis intervention services. Guard and Reserve members and their Families in this region can request crisis assistance and/ or general information about behavioral health services by calling 1-866-284-3743.

Visit www.militaryonesource.com for additional behavioral health services.

Health benefits advisor assists beneficiaries with TRICARE plans, billing issues

DEBORAH DODSWORTH

TRICARE beneficiaries who have questions or issues with benefits and billing can visit the health benefits advisor at Kirk U.S. Army

Not only does Megan Krebs serve as the health benefits advisor, she also is the beneficiary counselor assistant coordinator and debt collection assistant officer for Unified Business Office at KUSAHC.

As the health benefits advisor and the beneficiary counselor assistant coordinator, Krebs helps patients navigate the TRICARE and military health system. She answers questions, alleviates concerns and advises them on obtaining care -- offering advice to beneficiaries on which TRI-CARE plan will best suit their needs.

"I look at each individual and their Family to help determine which TRICARE plan will work best for them," Krebs said. "Sometimes TRICARE can be overwhelming, and taking the time to explain each benefit works goes a long way to sooth the concerns and answer their questions. There are times the beneficiary doesn't even know what to ask."

helps beneficiaries resolve billing issues.

"Sometimes it's a simple fix with one phone call and other times it takes weeks and many phone calls," she said. "No matter what the billing issue is I'll do my very best to help resolve it.

"It is a pleasure to work with all the military members and their Families," Krebs said. "I was active duty Navy for twelve and a half years; I've been in their shoes and understand the concerns that come with TRICARE. With deployments, TDY's [temporary duty travel] and mobilizations of the active duty member I know it's hard on the Families. The last thing someone needs to worry about while on the front lines is their Family's medical coverage".

Krebs gives four briefings a week to in processing personnel, providing information both on KUSAHC and TRICARE.

"I use any method I can to get information out to the beneficiaries. The better informed they are the easier things will be," Krebs said.

The Health Benefits Office is open for benficiaries from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For TRICARE assistance, call Krebs, at 410-As a debt collection assistant officer, Krebs 278-1719 or e-mail megan.krebs@amedd.army.

KUSAHC Web site redesigned

CAPT CHANI CORDERO

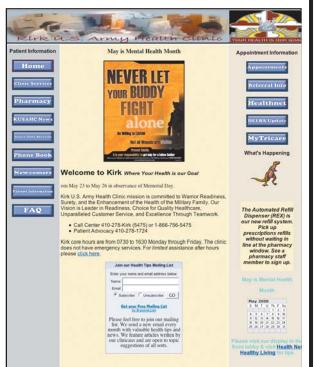
On March 1, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic launched a redesign of its Web page to make it more patient friendly, reduce redundant information and allow for easier access to requested information.

The site is designed to ease navigation with all information available in three clicks or less. It is also designed to create a consistent view for each page that contains information such as phone numbers, hours of operation and services provided.

The site offers a new frequently asked questions button, phonebook, an active duty service page and a link to the DEERS update page. The new site gives patients the ability to easily make appointments online at any time, which eliminates calling only in the morning for appointments.

Other features include online prescription refills and medical records copy request.

After visiting http://www.narmc. amedd.army.mil/kusahc, send comments and/or suggestions to the webmaster at chani.cordero@amedd.army.mil.



Traffic Safety 51

Commentary: Why buckle up? Because your life depends on it!

JOSEPH L DAVIS

Summer is almost upon us and that means its time for the national "Click it or Ticket Campaign."

Safety belts are useless unless people make the effort to wear them. Without them people become projectiles inside of cars.

If you're involved in a motor vehicle collision and not properly restrained by a safety belt, it's not the first stop that causes the pain, it's the second stop as your body becomes impaled into some part of the interior in your vehicle or your face becomes one with the windshield.

Safety belts are considered the best tool in avoiding traffic deaths and have been used in greater numbers in the past decade.

In 1994 only 58 percent of American motorists buckled up but the percentage increased to 71 percent in 2000.

Department of Transportation officials estimate that with 82 percent wearing their seat belts, approximately 15,700 fatalities and 350,000 serious injuries are prevented every

Failure to wear a seat belt contributes to more fatalities than any other single traffic safety-related behavior. Sixty-three percent of people killed in accidents are not wearing seat belts.

Data suggests that education alone is not doing the job with young people, especially males ages 16 to 25, the age group least likely to buckle up.

Unfortunately, many members of the military Family on Aberdeen Proving Ground fall into this category. The majority of this age group simply believes they will not be injured or killed. Yet they are the nation's highest risk drivers, with drunk driving, speeding, less seat belt usage and more crashes. It seems neither education nor fear of injury or death is strong enough to motivate this toughto-reach group.

The cost of unbuckled drivers and passengers goes beyond those killed and the loss to their Families. We all pay for those who don't buckle up in higher taxes, higher health care and higher insurance costs. By reaching the goal of 90 percent seat belt use, and 25 percent reduction in fatalities, we will save \$8.8 billion annually.

The "Click It or Ticket" campaign is part of the "Maryland Chiefs' Challenge" Seat Belt Use Campaign, done in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Transportation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Maryland Committee for Safety Belt Use and is fully supported by the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security at APG.

The nationwide seat belt enforcement push places special emphasis on protecting teens and young adults.

all young adults who die in crashes are completely unrestrained.

Maryland's law covers those motor vehicles registered in Maryland as Class A (passenger), Class E (truck), Class F (truck tractor), Class M (multipurpose), or Class P (passenger bus) vehicles and similar types of vehicles registered in other states; and that all vehicles are required to be equipped with seat belts under federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The law covers the driver and the front seat passenger next to the door, if the passenger is at least 16 years of age. Maryland's law allows primary enforcement, i.e., police may stop a vehicle and issue citations to violators solely for violating the seat belt law. Both driver and an adult passenger may receive traffic citations for not wearing seat belts.

Keep in mind, APG Regulations require ALL occupants of U.S gov-

Data indicates that more than half of ernment vehicles to be restrained by a seat belt.

Exempt from the mandatory seat belt use law are those who have a written certificate from their doctor stating a medical reason for not using their seat belt or drivers and passengers of Class L (historical) motor vehicles.

Children younger than 16 years of age in every seating position in all vehicles are covered by Maryland's Child Passengers Safety Law.

If you require additional information, contact the APG Crime Prevention Officer, 410-278-3609 or the APG Police Traffic Investigation Section, 410-278-5451.

Until next month, be safe and of course don't forget to buckle up! (Editor's note: Darabasz is a Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security traffic supervisor. Sources used: MDSHA, NHTSA and MD *Transportation Code.*)

From front page

ward expeditiously," said Col. Jeffrey Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander. "Revenues collected from these tenant leases contribute a significant amount to the in-kind services available to Aberdeen Proving Ground. When the EUL succeeds, APG benefits.'

'We're incredibly excited that CACI has signed the first lease at the G.A.T.E.," said Scott Brody, vice president and general manager at Opus East, L.L.C. "With tenants like CACI, the G.A.T.E is well on its way to becoming the preeminent business and technology park for the area."

"CACI is pleased to sign on with the innovative new G.A.T.E. facility in support of the U.S.

Army and Aberdeen Proving Ground," said Lou Lifrieri, executive vice president of CACI. "The facility and its resources will help us continue our essential support for the Army's critical missions and expand the valuable services we provide to our U.S. Army customers." Lifrieri oversees the growth of the company's business at APG.

The 60,000-square-foot research and development building will employ essential sustainability features that will include responsible site development and storm water management, efficient use of water resources, energy efficient mechanical equipment, and the use of regional and recycled materials. Additionally, the project will use low impact construction methods and environmentally responsible construction

The G.A.T.E. is being developed on a 400-acre site inside the installation's secure

perimeter. Ultimately, the G.A.T.E. will provide more than 2-million square feet of office, lab and research and development space.

The G.A.T.E. offers a synergetic environment for firms, defense contractors, and other Army and Department of Defense units working on activities to complement APG missions.

In accordance with the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, law, APG will be transformed into a major business research center for the Army with the addition of approximately 6,000 new government jobs, not including support contractor jobs. Approximately 5,000 of the positions are being relocated from Fort Monmouth, N.J. At an estimated ratio of two contractors for every government employee, the growth could be as high as 18,000 new jobs to the area.

The second building Opus East will develop at the G.A.T.E. is an 80,000-square-foot office

building that will have contemporary precast panels, metal accent elements and large windows. The building's two entry points will be highlighted with full height curtain walls and metal canopies.

Opus East, L.L.C.

Opus East, L.L.C. is one of five regional companies within the Opus Group. Committed to creating great real estate, Opus implements best practices in sustainable design and construction to maximize building performance and reduce environmental impact. A community steward since its inception, the Opus Group is committed to the long-term development of people and communities by contributing 10 percent of its pre-tax profits to community organizations. For more information, visit http://www.opuscorp.com.

Commissary News



U.S. Army Photo by MARGARET MCKENZIE

Guard and Reserve members and their Families shop at the on-site case lot sale at the North Carolina Air National Guard base of the 145th Airlift

Defense Commissary Agency takes benefits to Guard, Reserve

MARGARET MCKENZIE

The Defense Commissary Agency is taking the commissary benefit to National Guard and Reserve members and their Families living in remote areas.

"The 2004 National Defense Authorization Act authorized full commissary benefits for members of the Ready Reserve," said Richard Page, acting director at DeCA. "Through our new "Bringing the Benefit to You" campaign, we are reaching out to our Guard and Reserve members who have earned the commissary benefit, but who cannot easily travel to a local commissary to shop on a regular basis.'

"Bringing the Benefit to You" involves conducting on-site sales out of warehouses, aircraft hangars, armories, tents in parking lots, and even the back ends of semi-trailers at remote locations where Soldiers and Families do not have access to a commissary.

This is part of the Army's reinforced commitment of support to military members and their Families through the Army Family Covenant. A core military Family support element and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to Family readiness and enhance the quality of life for America's military and their Families.

"While the focus is on Guard and Reserve, the on-site sales are a boon to all authorized shoppers living near them," Page said. "The Guard and Reserve members have earned this benefit and we want to make sure that we are delivering the benefit to them."

More than 55 percent of the National Guard and Reserves members do not live in what is considered the immediate area of a commissary.

"This is just part of a larger picture," Page continued. "Back in the fall when I became the acting director of DeCA, I

to make sure that we were doing our very best for the Guard and Reserve members not located near a commissary."

Page said DeCA is exploring ways to increase the frequency of the on-site sales and locations by looking at the demographic areas that are largely populated with the Guard and Reserve members.

"It depends on the size and the demographics of the area," Page said. "Fort Jackson is the closest commissary in the Charlotte area. There is a large population of military members in this area that do not have access to a commissary, so I will estimate doing this quarterly and try to tie it in with the drill training weekends so that it will be beneficial for the Soldiers and we can get maximum exposure."

Military members from all branches of the service including retirees flocked to the 145th Air National Guard Wing hanger, in Charlotte, N.C., in April for a case lot sale, the first of its kind in this area.

Information on other benefits for military members was also available at the sale. Representatives were on hand promoting the Army Integrated Family Support Network through the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, military OneSource and Armed Forces Recreation opportunities. Other information about Web sites to access other resources and benefits was available to military members and Families as they filed through the doors to make their purchases.

DeCA's own dietitian Maj. Karen Fauber was also on hand with information about the agency's newest health and

wellness initiatives. 'We partner with TRICARE on this

initiative," Fauber said. "I love this case lot sale," said Clinton R. Douglas, a former Marine. "My wife and I were here three days ago and we are back here again today. We can get everything here that we could get at Sam's, only

had several priorities, one of which was here we can get it at a cheaper rate and no sales tax and, everybody treats you nice and that's one thing I love about it."

> Tech Sgt. Marvin Williams was equally excited about the case lot sale.

> "I have lived in Rock Hill, South Carolina since 1990," Williams said. "The closest commissary is about an hour and a half from me. Most people in this area have to travel an hour and a half to two hours to get to Fort Jackson to shop. It is a good opportunity for me, and I look forward to hopefully having more opportunities like this one."

> "I am really excited about this," said Phillip E. Sakowitz Jr., executive director of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command and the new director for DeCA. "It is all associated with helping Soldiers and Families."

> "This is my first case lot sale," said Leslye A. Arsht, deputy under secretary for the Military Community and Family Policy. "I have really wanted to have these expanded so that we are better supporting Guard and Reserve military members in areas where they have to go a long way to take advantage of the commissary benefits."

> The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their Families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a five-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones.

> "It is everything I had hoped it to be and it has great crowds even though the weather isn't great," Arsht said. "People are coming; some are coming even more than once. They are seeing lots of great bargains, and we are really feeling like this was an important step in supporting a quality of life for the guard and reserve and the rest of the folks who are eligible and who live in the area."

A commissary customer favorite on tap-case lot sale May 27-31

CARRIE WILLIAMS

If last year's numbers are any indication, the worldwide case lot sale in May will yield fantastic savings for commis-

In May 2007, commissaries around the globe posted numbers that totaled more than \$12.5 million in sales and 1.8 million cases of product sold, proof of increasingly savvy shopping by commissary customers. Though overall savings are holding steady at 30 percent or more, case lot sales can increase those savings even more — which explains their popularity.

"We are optimistic about the numbers this year," said the Defense Commissary Agency's acting director, Rick Page. "Commissary shoppers love these sales, so we expect great customer support."

DeCA holds worldwide case lot sales twice a year — in May and September. The September sale started in 2001 and proved so popular another was added in May. The biannual event offers shoppers an opportunity to buy bulk quantities of their favorite products at increased savings, such as canned goods, beverages, paper products, pet supplies, cleaning or laundry products, and in some cases, fresh chicken, pork, beef and produce.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground case lot sale is scheduled for May 27 through 31.

For more information, call 410-278-3101.

Savvy shoppers who like to stock the pantry and save lots of money, too, should mark their calendars, write their shopping lists and prepare for the worldwide case lot sale.

To find out when all of the case lot sales are, visit http:// www.commissaries.com/case lot sale.cfm.

Commentary: Customers are reading product labels, making healthier choices when they shop

MAJ KAREN FAUBER

While shopping in the commissary last week I saw the most wonderful sight for a dietitian: Everywhere I looked people were reading labels on packages.

I would like to think that they were all trying to make the healthiest choices possible as they took advantage of their commissary benefit. This was wonderful to see, because as the DeCA dietitian it's my mission to help educate our customers make informed decisions about their health.

According to the "2007 Food & Health Survey," as many as 66 percent of food shoppers are trying to make healthy choices for themselves and their Families. So it makes sense that more people are reading labels on packages to choose foods that meet their health and dietary needs.

However, today it can be a little challenging for shoppers to make those decisions with all the information that is on the labels.

To help make your shopping easier, try using the "5-20 guide" as a quick tip to label reading. For any nutrient on the food label (usually found on the side or back of the product) consider the following amounts:

• 5 percent or less is low: For nutrients you need to limit like fat, saturated fat and sodium, choose foods with 5 percent or less daily value.

• 20 percent or more is high: For nutrients you need more of, such as fiber, calcium and iron, choose foods with 20 percent or more daily value.

The Defense Commissary Agency, the National Guard Bureau Decade of Health Program and the American Heart Association are working together to help you make your shopping for healthy choices a little bit easier. You can create and print your own shopping list found at http:// www.heartcheckmark.org/.

Look for more tips on how to make informed choices throughout the month in appreciation for all you do in service to our nation.

For more information about healthy food choices and other nutrition topics, go to http://www.commissaries. **com** and post your questions on the DeCA Dietitian Forum http://www.commissaries. com/healthy_living/dietitian/forum/index.cfm, and be sure to look for other useful information in the Dietitian's Voice archive http://www.commissaries. com/healthy living/dietitian/column/index.cfm.

Military StarSM Rewards MasterCard® to 'go where you go

Using a Military StarSM card became even more rewarding May 1 with the military exchange system unveiling of the Military StarSM Rewards MasterCard®.

exchange shoppers for everyday purchases made both on and off military installations, the card combines the advantages of the existing Military StarSM private label card with the power of a Chase Rewards Program.

A new program that rewards

"The Military StarSM Rewards

MasterCard automatically chooses the appropriate line of credit so authorized exchange shoppers earn maximum points whenever or wherever the card is used," said AAFES' Chief Operating Officer Mike Howard. "It functions as a Military StarSM Card where accepted and as a MasterCard everywhere else. In either case, purchases produce rewards for cardholders."

Introduced in early 2008, the Military StarSM Rewards MasterCard program offers more possibilities with the ability to earn two points

per dollar for qualifying "on installation" purchases and one point per dollar for qualifying purchases made "off installation." The new co-branded card will also incorporate flexible reward options that can be redeemed with as little as 2,000 points. Once approved, account holders will be mailed a complete catalog of reward options such as cash back, free airline tickets and even exchange gift cards.

"The Military StarSM Rewards program finally allows the exchanges to offer the ultimate convenience

to authorized shoppers: two lines of ers, senior vice president, Chase Card credit and only one card," Howard said. "With that said, the Military StarSM Rewards card is not a replacement for the Military StarSM card. In fact, authorized exchange shoppers who currently have a Military StarSM card and sign up for the new card will receive two different lines of credit to provide maximum flexibility when choosing a method of payment."

"Chase is excited to extend its relationship with AAFES and offer a great rewards program," said Shelley SandServices, a division of JPMorgan Chase & Co. [NYSE: JPM]. "By using this new card, cardmembers can earn double rewards just for shopping at their favorite store. Chase is the bank that keeps up with customers' busy, dynamic and ever changing lifestyles with valuable products and services that meet their needs."

Additional details concerning the Military StarSM Rewards MasterCard will be available under the "exchange credit central" section of www.aafes.com.

AAFES has environmental change 'in the bag'

AAFES

As part of a continuing effort to be a good steward of the environment, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is introducing reusable bags to military shoppers. Made of non-woven polypropylene mesh, the bags are now arriving in stores in the United States, with worldwide distribution expected by June.

"Military shoppers continue to express a strong desire for environmentally friendly products," said AAFES' Senior Vice

gess. "In fact, AAFES has seen Compact Fluorescent Lighting light bulb sales increase by one hundred and sixty percent in 2008 compared to the same time period last year. With that said, we anticipate exchange customers will enthusiastically embrace AAFES' new, environmentally friendly shopping bag options."

The AAFES recycledreusable bag line, capable of carrying up to 35 pounds, will consist of a small shopping bag and wine bag for \$0.99 each, a

President of Sales Maggie Burlarge shopping bag for \$1.49 and a thermal bag is available for \$1.99.

In addition to the bags, AAFES is implementing "green initiatives" at exchange facilities across the globe to include ENERGY STAR® vending machines, inventive "pollution solutions" in fast food restaurants, CFL options within the stores as well as real estate efforts that focus on energy and water reduction and the incorporation of earth friendly materials into building design.

Tell AAFES what you think for shot at shopping spree

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is giving eligible customers an opportunity to tell them what they think about their exchange benefit. Through June 9, military shoppers can log on to www.aafes.com and take a brief, approximately 12-minute survey, letting AAFES know in what areas the exchange excels as a retailer and where there may be room for improvement.

"AAFES is your store and exchange operations are only as good as you make them," said AAFES' Chief of Communications Lt. Col. Dean Thurmond. "More than twenty-five percent of AAFES associates are military spouses or Family members and they depend on feedback and support to enhance the benefit. This is the military community's opportunity to let us know what it will take to make the BX/PX their first choice."

In addition to the opportunity to provide input, every survey participant will receive a 10 percent off coupon for a www.aafes.com purchase of \$100 or less. Additionally, three grand prize winners will receive a \$500 AAFES shopping spree.

Army News

Vice chief says strain on allvolunteer force unprecedented

Story by J.D. LEIPOLD Army News Service

The Army's vice chief of staff said America's Army continues on track to achieve the most comprehensive transformation since World War II, but warned challenges lie ahead to sustain the all-volunteer force.

Gen. Richard A. Cody, who has announced plans to retire in August, spoke to a large audience of industry and Army leaders April 3 at the Association of the United States Army's Institute of Land Warfare Forum breakfast. He said now is a critical time in the testing of the nation's resolve to defeat terrorism and the days ahead will test whether the country will continue to have the "wisdom, courage and foresight" to sustain the all-volunteer force in an age and era of "persistent conflict and unpredictable challenges."

Cody said there is no historical precedence for a volunteer professional Army serving on such a huge scale for so long, so well and so far from home.

"There's no question that what has held this Army together is our people – from our leaders who have built winning teams by building trust Soldier to Soldier, leader to led, and unit to unit," he said. "And, our Army civilians who have stood shoulder to shoulder with these uniformed counterparts and finally to our resilient Families who have endured fifteen-month separations and hardships. To a one, there's no question our strength and our source of every success has been our people."

Cody added that manning, equipping and training are on target and that basic warrant officer and commissioned officer training will continue to improve without waivers to educational requirements because "this Army has no shake-and-bake substitute, a lesson learned long ago."

He said the Army would continue to develop new doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures and refine leadership courses in real-time feedback from commanders returning from the fight.

"We have also continued to develop and improve our equipment, challenging you and industry and our acquisition community to reach new levels that our Soldiers demand." he told the audience, adding that in 2003 costs to outfit a Soldier for combat were \$1,700 but today that figure is closer to \$17,000 reflective that Soldiers have the best equipment available and it's constantly improving.

"We've introduced ninety-four programs and more than one hundred billion dollars to include the MRAPs [mine resistant ambush-protected vehicles] we're fielding today and more than eighteen thousand up-armored Humvees [high mobility multi purpose wheeled vehicles that we've built since 2003," he said. "We have the individual body armor upgrades, the counter-IED systems, aircraft survivability equipment, M-4s and so forth of our future combat system spin-outs that are realities today and making a difference on the battlefield... all this while providing in and out of combat one hundred seventy six thousand Soldiers every year that we have to reset, retrain and then deploy.

"We must continue to recruit and retain quality Soldiers to grow our Army and meet the increased, enduring operational demand in this era of persistent conflict," he said.

Cody said that by making hard choices, the Army has grown by 43,000 Soldiers to an end-strength in the active force of 525,000 with a combined total of active, Guard and Reserve standing at 650,000.

"We've increased the number of brigade combat teams in the active force from thirty three to forty since 2003 and we've added five new Stryker brigades," he said. "We've also completed the modular conversation of more than seventy-five percent of our formations across the Army (to include the Reserve component) so that we'll have three types of brigade combat teams, not fifteen. We'll modulize not just them, but all across the functional brigades."

He said the Army has completed and rebalanced more than 70,000 force structure spaces to rebalance the active and Reserve components so the Army can execute now and into the future what the new Army doctrine demands in order to be a full-spectrum force.

To help alleviate strain on Soldiers and their Families, Cody also said the Army's top priority was the investment of \$66 billion in the next five to six years into new housing, barracks, community centers, child development centers, health care and education so the force could be sustained.

Alluding to the fiscal year 2008 supplemental budget request and the FY 09 budget, Cody said those budgets must be passed to avoid substantial impacts on readiness and unneeded uncertainty and stress on Soldiers and their Families.

Red maple marks Army Reserve Centennial

ALEX MCVEIGH Army News Service

A ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery commemorated 100 years of service and sacrifice by Army Reserve Soldiers May 7.

The ceremony followed the re-enlisting of 100 Soldiers in the morning on the west lawn of the Capitol. At Arlington National Cemetery, a wreath was laid at the Tomb of the Unknowns and then officials moved to a site near the Memorial Amphitheater to plant a ceremonial tree and unveil a plaque.

It was April 23, 1908, when Congress passed Senate Bill 1424. This bill allowed the Army to create a reserve corps of medical officers. These medical officers could be ordered onto active duty by the Secretary of War.

Illinois Congressmen John Shimkus was the event's keynote speaker. A graduate of West Point, he was on active duty for five years after graduation, and then he joined the Army Reserve.

"These corps of medical officers became Citizen-Soldiers, and have since made their mark on history," Shimkus said. "These Citizen-Soldiers have provided this country with the immeasurable gift of service."

Other speakers included Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve and commander of the U.S. Army Reserve Command.

'The Army Warrior Ethos says, 'I will always place the mission first, I will never accept defeat, I will never quit, I will never leave a fallen comrade behind.' We are at Arlington National Cemetery to fulfill the fourth part of the warrior ethos, we are not leaving our fallen comrades behind," he said.

Since 9/11, 158 Army Reserve Soldiers have been

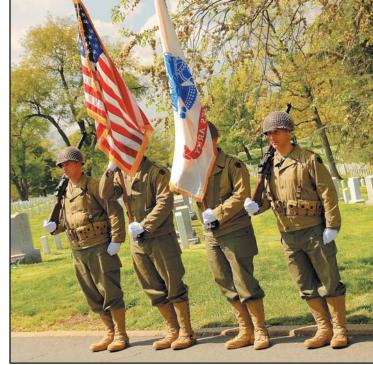


Photo by ADAM SKOCZYLAS

The Army Reserve color guard at Arlington National Cemetery wore wool uniforms of World War II to commemorate the component's history during a May 7 ceremony to commemorate 100 years of service and sacrifice by Army Reserve Soldiers.

'[The Army Reserve] has become an operational fighting force that is hugely important to defending this nation," said Col. Les Carroll, "and it's only right that we are here to honor these Soldiers."

The ceremony included a prelude and postlude by the 451st Army Reserve Band, 88th Regional Readiness Command, as well as a fly-by from four helicopters that were part of the 12th Aviation Battalion from Fort Belvoir.

Casual visitors were drawn to the ceremony and enjoyed the proceedings.

"We were watching the changing of the guard, and we followed a group over here," said Kevin Sullivan. Sullivan was visiting from Boston with his Family. "The ceremony was very impressive."

The honor guard wore World War I uniforms as a way to remind people of the Army Reserve's history.

"I was deployed to Iraq with an Army historian, and he asked me about wearing the uniform," said Lt. Col. Jerry Brooks, one of the honor guards. "I didn't mind helping out a friend, especially for this

After the ceremonial red maple was planted, Shimkus unveiled the plaque, which reads, "Dedicated to the United States Army Reserve Soldiers and Families who have served and sacrificed for our nation."

Maj. Willis Madden served as master of ceremonies.

"It's a particular honor for me to be a part of this," Madden said. "My father and grandfather were both Army Reservists. Some people claim that the Reserve is no longer relevant, that we should merge with the National Guard. I think if you look at the history of what the Army reserve has done, as well as what it has meant to the Army, you can see that [the Army Reserve] holds many unique capabilities, including the ability to become a Citizen-Soldier."

Military

From front page

Wendy Spohn was a recent finalist of the 2007 GEICO Military Service Award for her volunteer work with the March of Dimes.

Seccurro said that in addition to the current signers, five personnel who would be selected as APG volunteers of the year during a ceremony later that evening, also would be asked to sign the covenant as representatives of all those who volunteer at APG.

"This community covenant represents what we have felt for many years about our friends and colleagues here at APG," Seccurro said. "May we have many more years together."

In his remarks, Robinson talked about the APG transformation, called APG 2012, saying that it is more than just the base realignment and closure, or BRAC.

"While BRAC is only part of the reason, it gives us the ability to measure our capabilities in ways we never thought possible," Robinson said.

With the addition of thousands of jobs at APG it means tremendous growth for the community, he said.

We have to show them the opportunities that exist; the

exciting work that makes a dif-

ference to our nation," he said. He said that along with the construction of new offices and test facilities under the Enhanced Use Lease, other changes include the relocation of the Route 715 gate to allow access to the golf course; the realignment of shopping and food services to accommodate a dwindling military and growing civilian populace and the maintenance of medical services to support area retirees.

"That's how we're changing and that's how we're grow-

representative; Kristin Barcak, representative for U.S. Representative C. A. 'Dutch' Ruppersberger; Dick Molinaro, chairman of Harford County Chamber of Commerce; Virginia Sanders, representative for U.S. Representative Wayne Gilchrest; Robert M. Preston, mayor for Town of Bel Air; Michael Bennett, mayor, City of Aberdeen; Carol Mathis, representing Havre de Grace Mayor Wayne Dougherty; Heather Campbell, representing U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin; David M. Craig, Harford County executive; Turhan Robinson, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for Maryland; James A. Adkins, Maryland Secretary for Veterans Affairs and Adjutant General designate and Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr. commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command. ing," he said. "It really is all

> force." He asked that everyone take a moment to "recognize and honor those men and women who have given their lives for this nation," during next week's Memorial Day weekend.

> about supporting the Warfight-

ers and taking care of the work

"Thanks a lot for what you do, and thanks a lot for the tremendous difference you make to our Soldiers and their Families and for the difference you will make for those who are coming to serve here in the future," Robinson said.

The program included the presentation of awards and gifts to the installation's outstanding service members of the year. They included Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Spohn; Staff Sgt. John Bostic, U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School Instructor of the Year; U.S. Marine Corps Detachment NCO of the Year, Sgt. Jeremy Hazlett; and U.S. Air Force Detachment NCO of the Year Tech. Sgt. William Ingram. Kimberly accepted the award on for her husband who is deployed. Spohn and Bostic were awarded the Army Commendation Medal; Hazlett was awarded the Navy and

Marine Corps Achievement Medal and Ingram received a USAF Certificate of Achievement. All service members received a gift bag containing savings bonds, gift cards and other items from local merchants including dinner for two and a three-night stay at the Holiday Inn.

The APG Army Community Covenant signing team poses for a photograph following the signing ceremony. From left: Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander; Wendy Spohn; Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Spohn, U.S. Army Materiel Command Band and 2008 APG Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Lukas Spohn; Drew Nobles, retiree

> Organizers and honorees said they were pleased and honored to have been a part of the program.

Pete Bucha of Batelle, cochair of the Military Affairs Committee and a retired APG colonel, said that the ceremony was in its seventh year at APG. He thanked the Garrison commander and staff for their support.

'This is indeed a special day because it gives us a chance to recognize all those at APG who serve our country with honor and distinction," Bucha said.

"We're always thrilled to partake of our military friends and associates here at APG," added Molinaro.

Spohn said that he was proud to have been included in the Covenant signing.

"It's a great feeling to be part of Aberdeen Proving Ground history," he said. "I love the military. Hopefully, I

can portray a positive image and serve as an advocate for Soldier support."

Hazlett, a systems administrator with the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment said that he was honored to have been named its NCO of the Year.

"I want to thank my wife for putting up with me and my command for supporting me through everything I've done," he said. "They respect me and that means a lot."

The program included the invocation by APG command Chaplain (Col.) Ruben D. Colon Jr. and the singing of the national anthem by Kelleigh Pangratz, a 10th grade student from Harford Technical High School.

Seccurro thanked Homestead Publishing Company and the APG News for the Military Appreciation Week insert that was distributed in May 9 issues of The AEGIS and May 15 issues of the APG News, in particular, editor Debi Horne and the chamber's advertising and sales committee.

"It was one of the best ever produced," he said of the insert.

In addition, George Mercer, APG public affairs officer, was named the recipient of the Maj. Gen. John G. Appel Recognition Award for his leadership on the chambers' Military Affairs Committee.

Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG PHOTO LAB

Seccurro said the award recognizes the individual who exemplifies what the chamber

is all about. "He has served faithfully as a member of our committee for the past ten years and without him it would be very difficult to put on our program," Seccurro said.

The Army Community Covenant www.acsim.army.mil

The Army Community Covenant is designed to

develop and foster effective state and community partnerships with the Army in improving the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families, both at their current duty stations and as they transfer from state to state. The Army Community Cov-

enant is tailored at the local level, with leaders at both local and state levels participating in covenant signings, planned between April and December 2008, recognizing the strength of Army Soldiers and their Families and the support of their local Community.

Army Community Covenant:

Together, we are committed to building strong communities.

We, the community, recognize...

...The commitment Soldiers and Families are making

...the strength of Soldiers comes from the strength of their

...the strength of Families is supported by the strength of the community. ...the strength of the community comes from the support of employers, educators, civic and business leaders and its citizens.

We, the community, are committed to...

...building partnerships that support the strength, resilience and readiness of Soldiers and their Families.'

... assisting in the implementation of the Army Family

Covenant.